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## NEARBY

### Microfinance Bill to provide relief to borrowers

BENGALURU
In a bid to provide relief to the economically vulnerable groups, individuals, SHGs, and small and marginal farmers, the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025, was tabled in the Assembly on Thursday. » PAGE 10

### HSRP compliance 29% in State

BENGALURU
By the end of February this year, 57,20,550 vehicles out of 2 crore that were registered before 2019 installed the High-Security Registration Plates. This means that only 29% of vehicles have complied with the rule so far. » PAGE 2

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# Many of Trump's priorities work for India: Jaishankar

The U.S. administration's interest in multi-polarity, technology and connectivity is promising, says External Affairs Minister; he also welcomes initiatives that will keep energy prices affordable

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

Citing the shifting geopolitical order, energy, technology and connectivity initiatives, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that several priorities of U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration were promising for India.

"I think we see a President and an administration which, in our parlance, is moving towards multi-polarity. And that is something which suits India," he said, clarifying that by practising multi-polarity, the Trump administration was in fact promoting it.

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking at Chatham House, a London-based think tank on Wednesday, during an official visit to the U.K.

Union Minister S. Jaishankar speaking with Chatham House Director and CEO Bronwen Maddox in London on Wednesday. ANI

The U.S. had been thought of as a bloc with the West since 1945, rather than as a nation, but now the U.S.'s own self-perception is more as a nation, the Minister said.

"I think, from President Trump's perspective, the one big shared enterprise that we have is the Quad [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue]," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the grouping of India, the U.S., Australia and Japan.

Each Quad member was paying its "fair share", he said, and so there were no spats about burden-sharing. Financial burden-sharing has become a central issue between the U.S. and several European countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance.

Mr. Trump "appears open to connectivity initiatives of a certain collaborative nature" Mr. Jaishankar said. "We have a deep interest in that," he added.

The Minister was presumably referring to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), which finds mention in the India-U.S. joint statement that emerged from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent discussions with Mr. Trump at the White House.

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'BREACH AT EVENT'
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## 'If Pakistan vacates PoK, Kashmir issue will be solved'

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said that Pakistan vacating Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) would resolve the Kashmir issue in its entirety. The Minister was responding to a question from a member of the audience at the Chatham House, a think tank based in London.

The question was about whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi could use his relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump to "solve" the Kashmir issue.

"Removing Article 370 was step number one," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to the controversial changes in the special status of Jammu and Kashmir made by the government in August 2019.

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## Unblock *Vikatan* site once it temporarily removes cartoon: HC

**Mohamed Imranullah S.**
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday passed an interim order directing the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to permit public access to the *Ananda Vikatan* website on the condition that the latter temporarily removes the offending cartoon featuring a shackled Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy passed the order pursuant to a writ petition filed jointly by Ananda Vikatan Productions Private Limited and Ananda Vikatan Publishers Private Limited, challenging the Ministry's February 25 proceedings and seeking a consequential direction to immediately restore public access to the website, www.vikatan.com.

Senior counsel Vijay Narayan, assisted by Rahul Unnikrishnan, representing the petitioners, argued that the cartoon published by *Ananda Vikatan* did not fall under any of the reasons cited under relevant laws for blocking public access to information.

**The story so far**

The website of *Vikatan* magazine was blocked by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

- The block came after a complaint was **filed over a cartoon** featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump
- The magazine and several others have condemned the move as an '**attack on freedom of expression**'
- *Vikatan* **moved the Madras High Court** against the order

CONTINUED ON
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## M.P. Police 'thrash, parade' duo accused of cow slaughter; VHP felicitates officers

**Mehul Malpani**
BHOPAL

After two men accused of cow slaughter were allegedly beaten up and paraded in public after their arrest in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh earlier this week, members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal felicitated the police officers responsible.

Videos have popped up online showing the alleged "parade" on Monday. Salim Mewati, 37, and Aaqib Mewati, 23, can be seen walking on a road accompanied by the police, one of whom is seen hitting them with a baton. The men can be heard repeating chants, such as "*Gaay hamari mata hai* (the cow is our mother)".

A grab from a purported video of the two accused of cow slaughter being paraded by the police in Ujjain. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Additional SP Guruprasad Parasar downplayed the parade and the beating, insisting it was "not such a serious matter".

"Police did not beat them up like it is being shown," he said.

The duo and another person were spotted around midnight on February 16 near Jaithal, along with an SUV and a tied-up cow, the police said. "They used to catch stray cows and oxen, and slaughter them to sell their meat and skin. They have confessed to having slaughtered over 1,000 cows and oxen," Ghatia police station incharge D.L. Dasoriya said.

On the 'parade', Mr. Dasoriya said, "It's wrong information. No such parade was taken out".

## CM's 16th Budget today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

With an anticipated outlay of over ₹4 lakh crore, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present the Budget for 2025-26 on Friday. This will be his 16th Budget, the highest by any Chief Minister in the history of Karnataka.

A challenge before the Chief Minister is striking a balance between spending on developmental projects and social welfare schemes, especially the five guarantee schemes.

DETAILS ON
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## 'System to cap multiplex ticket rates soon'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A comprehensive system will be put in place soon to regulate and cap cinema ticket prices in multiplexes across Karnataka, assured Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Thursday in the Legislative Council.

Responding to JD (S) member Govindaraju, the Minister said although the Congress government during its previous regime had announced in the 2017-18 Budget that uniform ticket prices will be fixed in all cinemas, it could not be implemented.

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## Days after SDPI chief's arrest, ED conducts searches in 10 States

**Devesh K. Pandey**
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches on Thursday in connection with the case against the banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI).

The move comes days after the arrest of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) national president M.K. Faizy on charges of money laundering. He is now in ED custody.

The ED has accused the SDPI of being a "political front" of the PFI.

The searches are being carried out at 12 locations across 10 States. These include two areas in Delhi, including SDPI headquarters, along with locations in Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram, Bengaluru, Nandyal, Thane, Chennai, Pakur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Jaipur. The ED teams faced protests by SDPI supporters at some places.

Mr. Faizy was arrested from the Indira Gandhi International Airport on Monday. Earlier, after recording his statements in January 2024, the agency summoned him multiple times until February 2025. However, he failed to appear before the team.

The ED has alleged that the SDPI and the PFI had common members and leaders, and that the SDPI was "dependent" on the PFI for its day-to-day functions. It is alleged that the PFI office-bearers and cadre collected funds from India and abroad (Gulf nations) through banking or "hawala" channels, as part of a conspiracy to commit or finance terror activities across the country.

## Assembly passes Palace Bill amid walkout by Opposition

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amid allegations of "political vendetta" and a walkout in protest by the BJP and the JD(S) members, the Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Bill, 2025, that is expected to help the State government address the contempt petition it faces in the Supreme Court, besides retaining the right to acquire or not the Palace land for road widening.

A file photo of Jayamahal Road in Bengaluru.

The Bill has been moved to replace the Ordinance that had been promulgated earlier in view of the contempt petition before the Supreme Court in which the government expressed its inability to provide TDR certificates worth ₹3,400 crore towards 15 acres and 39 guntas of land earmarked for acquisition to widen the Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road to the erstwhile royal family.

However, on Wednesday, the government decided to deposit the TDR certificates with the apex court.

Piloting the Bill, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the Bill gives power to the State to acquire or not acquire the Palace Land.

"The Supreme Court order has serious implications on Bengaluru urban development and the treasury. There will be serious ramifications on the State. If we accept the order, this 2 km stretch will become the costliest stretch in the world. If we agree to the valuation, what will be the valuation for 472 acres? The BJP Cabinet also did not agree to the valuation then (in 2022)."

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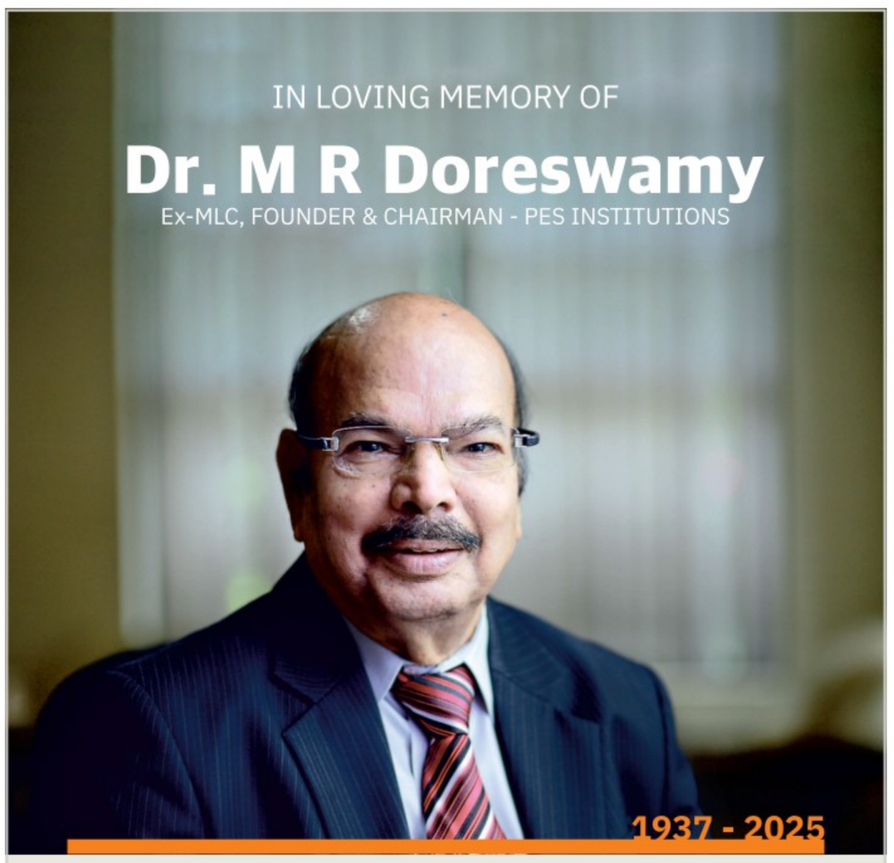


It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved founder, Dr. M R Doreswamy. A visionary leader and an inspiring educator, Dr. Doreswamy dedicated his life to the pursuit of excellence in education, healthcare and the betterment of society.

**A Heartfelt Farewell**

As we mourn the loss of a great leader, we also celebrate his remarkable life and the enduring impact he has made. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

**Rest in Peace, Dr. M R Doreswamy. Your legacy lives on.**

PES UNIVERSITY

# Rohit has shown himself to be a true leader of men

The 37-year-old is the first skipper in history to take a team to the final of all four ICC tournaments; he showcased his credentials with Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League long before he became the country's all-format captain

**R. Kaushik**
DUBAI

K.L. Rahul's gigantic six off Glenn Maxwell on Tuesday night was significant for more reasons than one.

Not only did it formalise India's entry into the final of the Champions Trophy for the fifth time in the tournament's history – and the third time on the bounce – it also thrust Rohit Sharma into the leadership stratosphere.

Less than three years after taking over as India's all-format captain, from Virat Kohli, Rohit has become the first skipper to take his side to the final of all four ICC tournaments – the World Test Championship, the 50-over World Cup, the T20 World Cup and now this competition, which has been revived after eight years.

It's a phenomenal record for someone who, as recently as in October 2019, wasn't sure where his red-ball career was headed.

K.R. DEEPAK

REUTERS

K.R. DEEPAK

AFP

## Test opener

Kohli and then head coach Ravi Shastri's decision to promote Rohit to open the Test batting has turned out to be a masterstroke. Twin centuries in his maiden avatar as opener against South Africa in Visakhapatnam wasn't a false dawn, unlike centuries in his first two Tests against West Indies in November 2013. Despite his recent travails at home against New Zealand and in Australia, Rohit continues to be a feared and respected Test opener, especially for the self-discipline and self-denial he assiduously incorporated in his game during the tour of England in 2021.

Rohit has shown himself to be a true leader of men. Long before his ascension to the Indian captaincy throne on his own steam – he had weighed in as limited-overs skipper on and off from December 2017, whenever Kohli wasn't available – he had showcased his credentials with Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League. Taking over mid-season from a misfiring Ricky Ponting in 2013, Rohit led his team to their maiden title that same year, then backed it up with further successes in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020, when he became the first captain since M.S. Dhoni in 2011 to successfully defend the crown.

By the time the Indian captaincy came to him, Rohit was ready. He had served nearly a decade of apprenticeship, if that's what it was, in the contours of franchise cricket, where managing superstars and superstar egos is potentially more demanding and trickier than within the national set-up, where the captain generally has the lie of the land.

In getting big names from different parts of the world to pull in the same direction and plug for a common cause without rancour or backbiting was a great tick in the box for Rohit. It's worth remembering that when he became the MI captain in the middle of 2013, he had yet to make his Test debut and was just about finding his feet in the two white-ball formats, in stark contrast to Dhoni, who had already clinched the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 in his first outing as the India skipper. This isn't a comparison between the two pedigreed leaders; in this instance, Rohit and Dhoni are invoked in the same breath only because both have five IPL crowns in their leadership kitty. Rohit brings great value in various different spheres, but none of them has had greater ramifications than the felicity with which he has got the various personnel that have played with and under him to buy into the concept of team ahead of self.

For eons, Indian cricket or at least a reasonable majority of the players and the entire fan-following, without exception, tended to focus on individual milestones, perhaps because they didn't trust the team enough to be consistently competitive around the globe and across formats. A Sachin Tendulkar hundred was acceptable – not to Tendulkar himself, mind – even if India lost; an Indian win was a bonus. Tendulkar might not have subscribed to that theory but some of the lesser mortals had one eye on their individual performances at a time when one or two failures were enough to usher them out of contention even if the competition for places wasn't anywhere near as intense as it has become now.

That fear of failure has now been comprehensively exploded. Players don't go out after a solitary failure or two, which explains why in the last three years, hardly anyone has played just one Test or an isolated limited-overs international.

Rohit was fortunate that at the beginning of his captaincy tenure, he had a kindred soul in Rahul Dravid for company, as head coach. During his stint as Indian captain between 2005 and 2007, Dravid was extremely successful. In one of those unfortunate but unavoidable scenarios, his inability to lead India past the first stage of the 2007 50-over World Cup in the Caribbean will always dog his legacy as captain. As dispiriting as that was, it shouldn't be forgotten that it was under Dravid that India won their first Test series in the West Indies in 35 years (in 2006), registered their first Test win in South Africa (also in 2006) and ended a 26-year wait for a series victory in England (in 2007). It was also under Dravid that India went from a fumbling, uncertain chasing unit in ODIs to stacking up a record 16 consecutive successful chases, all of which have been reduced to footnotes when viewed against the prism of the World Cup disaster.

## United front

Dravid and Rohit weren't always on the same page – it is impossible for two strong individuals to agree on everything – but when they had differing opinions, as opposed to differences of opinion, they thrashed them out in private so that when they emerged in public, they sang from the same hymn sheet.

That revolved around continuity in personnel, strategies, game plans, attitudes, mindsets and style of play. There was no knee-jerk reaction to every failure, no desperate chopping and changing, no pressing of the panic button. It sparked a feeling of security within the set-ups, and any professional sportsperson worth their salt will tell you how much of a comforting factor that is. The onus was on commitment and effort, in the conviction that if the players gave it their everything, they would get plenty in return. More often than not, that was the case. The fact that India have tided over potentially game-changing decision-making – such as the call to move on from the Cheteshwar Pujara-Ajinkya Rahane era in Test cricket – speaks to the strength of the Indian domestic structure.

For all the headlines, attention and envy that the Indian Premier League generates, a vast proportion of those playing domestic cricket still are attracted to the tugs and pulls and charms and vagaries of the red-ball game. Fears that Test cricket might suffer at the altar of the T20 game, specifically, have proved unfounded, both from a playing and viewing perspective. Even when New Zealand were running rings around India in October-November, good crowds populated the stands in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai, surprising several who believed audiences came only to watch cricketers, not cricket.

The insistence of the BCCI on internationals playing domestic cricket as and when they aren't on national duty is bound to raise the profile and increase the standard of the game at the state vs state level while keeping the internationals on their toes and refamiliarising themselves with the art of playing decent spin on turning tracks.

## The spin factor

If there is one area where the need for exponential improvement is a non-negotiable, it is in India's approach against spin and one is sure that's something Rohit and head coach Gautam Gambhir are well seized of.

Where India's seamless transition has been most overwhelmingly apparent is in the 20-over format. Rohit, Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja all announced their retirement from that version internationally within hours of the World Cup triumph at the Kensington Oval; with due respect to this proven trio, they haven't really been missed. That's thanks to the great depth in Indian cricket, bolstered undoubtedly by the IPL where young guns with starry ambitions are able to pick the brains of some of the greatest contemporary names.

India have been exceptional in T20 cricket in the eight months since the World Cup success, with the scramble for places manic and several of the performances surreal. Abhishek Sharma is the prime, but not only, example of being in the right place at the right time and making the most of the opportunities that come their way. Their recent annihilation of England suggests that the future of Indian T20 cricket is in young but very safe hands.

Since the beginning of 2019, India have registered Test series wins in Australia (twice), the West Indies (twice) and Bangladesh, and drawn in South Africa and England; their losses have come in New Zealand, South Africa and in Australia this year, while at home, they were unbeaten for 12 years until the Kiwis snapped that run in November.

They made the semifinal of the 2019 50-over World Cup and went one better four years later, while in T20 World Cups, they lost in the semifinal in Adelaide to England in 2022 before going all the way last June. They made the finals of the first two World Test Championships before their campaign fell flat in Cycle Three with six losses in their last eight Tests. At the time of writing, India are ranked No. 3 in Tests, and No. 1 in both limited-overs formats. They are within one win of becoming the first team to lift the Champions Trophy thrice. Their brand of cricket is exciting and enthralling, designed to entertain as much as to win though unlike England with their 'Bazball', entertainment doesn't come at the expense of victory. Their financial power is, of course, the envy of the cricketing world, but undermine their cricketing riches at your own peril.

## THE GIST

- India's entry into the final of the Champions Trophy for the fifth time thrust Rohit into the leadership stratosphere
- He was fortunate that at the beginning of his captaincy tenure, he had a kindred soul in Dravid for company, as head coach
- The fact that India have tided over potentially game-changing decision-making — such as the call to move on from the Pujara-Rahane era in Test cricket — speaks to the strength of the Indian domestic structure

## POCSO case: 19-year-old sentenced to 20 years imprisonment

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The fifth fast-track court on Wednesday convicted a 19-year-old youth to 20 years of imprisonment and a fine of ₹10,000 in a rape and POCSO case registered against him in Cottonpet police station in May 2024.

**Family lodges complaint**

The accused Jeeva Murugappa from Bakshi garden allegedly forced a minor girl into his house and raped and threatened her not to inform anyone. The accused later committed the offence three to four times, following which the victim got pregnant.

The accused was arrested based on a complaint lodged by the family of the victim.

**Compensation**

Based on the charge sheet submitted by the police, the fifth fast-track down convicted him and also directed the district legal service authority to pay a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the victim.

# Only 29% of vehicles have installed HSRP so far in State

A total of seven extensions have been given, with latest announced in February this year

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In the last three months, between November and February, around 5 lakh vehicles in Karnataka that were registered before 2019 have installed High-Security Registration Plates (HSRP) amidst multiple deadline extensions. By the end of February this year, 57,20,550 vehicles out of the total 2 crore vehicles that were registered before 2019 installed the HSRPs. This means that only 29% of vehicles have complied with the rules so far.

Out of over 57 lakh vehicles, 24,77,653 vehicles have got the HSRP in the Bengaluru Urban district. This is followed by 4,07,830 vehicles in Mysuru; 2,76, 014 in Dakshina Kannada district; 2,61,807 in Belagavi; and 2,06,812 in Shivamogga district, according to the data given by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy in Legislative Council earlier this week.

Although the first deadline for the installation of HSRP was November 17, 2023, a total of seven extensions have been given for the same so far. The latest extension was announced in February this year, when the deadline was changed from February 20 to March 31.

Mr. Reddy said, "Due to the case that is going on in the Karnataka High Court about the installation of HSRP, whose next hearing is in March, we had to extend the deadline. As the court has also asked us to maintain status quo, there has not been much progress."

After the deadline, vehicles with non-HSRP will be fined ₹500 for the first offence and ₹1,000 the next time across the State. One of the main reasons for non-compliance with the HSRP rules has time and again proven to be the lack of awareness. "I know that having stickers or designs on number plate is now allowed and that will attract a fine. But I do not exactly know what HSRP are and why I should get them," said Nandakumara, a cab driver in the city.

HSRP installation for a vehicle being done at a showroom in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Top 5 districts

| District | HSRP installations |
|---|---|
| Bengaluru Urban | 24,77,653 |
| Mysuru | 4,07,830 |
| Dakshina Kannada | 2,76,014 |
| Belagavi | 2,61,807 |
| Shivamogga | 2,06,812 |

## 1.85 lakh cases booked last year

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police booked 1,85,000 cases of defective number plates in the year 2024. These cases were registered against vehicles which have various designs, stickers, and non-government job titles on number plates. In January this year, 15,000 cases were booked

Other problem motorists face is the process not being very user-friendly. "When I type HSRP registration, so many websites pop up online and I am having trouble deciding which one is genuine. I enquired at a car showroom nearby, but they said that it will take at least 40-45 days for the plates to come due to increased demand," said Chethana Krishna, a resident of Electronics City.

## DRI objects to Ranya Rao's bail plea

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has expanded the probe to identify the larger syndicate behind actor Ranya Rao, who was arrested for allegedly smuggling gold into the country, sources said on Thursday.

Ranya, who is currently in judicial custody, moved the Economic Offences Court on Thursday seeking bail. At the same time, the DRI objected and sought her custody for further interrogation as they "recovered evidence following her arrest" needing corroboration.

**DRI seeks custody**

The DRI officials sought the custody of the accused alleging that she is part of an international syndicate and during the two days probe with the her call record details and laptops, some vital information was gathered , which needs to be corroborated.

Objecting to the bail application on Thursday, the DRI officials said that the accused had visited Dubai many times in a short span of time and misused official protocol. The accused had met many people and not carried the gold in her bag, but like a professional concealed the gold bars in body parts.

The gold bars, sources said, weighed around 1 kg and were stuck using adhesive tape and crepe bandages. Trousers were worn over them to conceal, they said, adding that the modus showed Ranya had done the same at least a few times previously, and granting bail would hamper further investigations, the advocate representing DRI told the court.

Ranya also allegedly misused her DGP stepfather K. Ramachandra Rao's protocol by using a police staff from the Airport police station to escort her out soon after she landed and used VIP channels to exit the terminal to minimise frisks and checks.

The court has reserved the order for Friday and will decide whether to grant Ranya bail or give her custody to the DRI. Ranya was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on Monday after she landed from Dubai via an Emirates flight. The DRI said it had received a tip-off that she was smuggling gold.

## Skeleton of missing boy found in backyard of house

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The body of an 18-year-old caretaker of a plant nursery at Haralur in Bengaluru, who was reported missing in December 2024, was found in the backyard of his house on March 5.

The deceased, Amit Kumar, got married in February 2024. He was working at the plant nursery owned by his relative Kamlesh Kumar and was living in the same place with two of his relatives, who were working as food delivery boys.

In a complaint filed by Amit's father Tek Chand, 54, a resident of Unnao district in U.P., he has stated that his son went missing mysteriously and his mobile phone was switched off. Tek Chand identified skeleton as that of Amit Kumar on the basis of the clothes. In his complaint, the victim's father expressed suspicion that Amit Kumar was murdered and his body was buried in the backyard to conceal the crime. The police have registered a case of murder and destroying evidence.

# Lokayukta raids eight government officials

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Karnataka Lokayukta Police have conducted search operations across the State in connection with complaints regarding disproportionate assets cases registered against eight government officers, including two in Bengaluru and one each in Kolar, Kalaburgi, Davanagere, Tumakuru, Bagalkote, and Vijayapura, and recovered disproportionate assets worth several crore.

Simultaneously, searches were conducted in more than 40 places that include the residences, and offices of the accused government officers and their relatives and movable and immovable properties including sites, houses, land, cash, jewels and vehicles, foreign currencies, large amounts of gold ornaments totalling ₹36,53,05737 were seized on Thursday, said a release.

Lokayukta of Karnataka B.S. Patil during the raid at various government offices in Bengaluru Urban Rural and Ramanagar district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The officials raided included T.D. Nanjundappa, Chief Engineer, Panachayath Raj Engineer Department, Panchayath Raj Bhavana, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru; H.B. Kalleshappa, Executive Engineer, BBMP, Bengaluru; Nagaraj G, Asst. Executive Engineer(E), BESCOM, KSSIDC Building, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru; Jagannath, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru; Nagaraj J.S., Designated officer, Food Safety and Quality Department, Davanagere; Jagadeesh P., General Duty Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Tavarekere, Sira Taluk, Tumakuru; Mallappa Sabanna Durgad, FDA, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Bagalakote; and Shivanand Shivashankar Kembavi, FDA, Karnataka Housing Board, Vijayapura.

The accused have been booked under Prevention of Corruption Act.

# ZEISS India to drive Karnataka's eye-care campaign Vidya Drishti

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

ZEISS India, part of Carl Zeiss, a German manufacturer of optical systems and optoelectronics, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Karnataka to improve eye-care in the rural regions of the State.

The two-year-long eye care campaign – named Vidya Drishti – would commence in Kalaburagi district. The programme would be executed by Aloka Vision, a social arm of ZEISS, and would screen 5,32,000 school children in the age group of 5 and 16 for any vision related issues, and the relevant persons would be given prescription glasses. Some 6,00,000 underprivileged population, aged above 39, would also be screened as part of this drive.

Miguel Gonzalex Diaz, Managing Director, Carl Zeiss India, said, "Through this initiative, we aim to positively impact the lives of children in rural areas by providing essential vision care support. Clear vision is fundamental to education and overall development.'‘

The programme would screen schoolchildren in the age group of 5 and 16 for vision-related issues, and the relevant persons would be prescribed glasses.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dhaval Radia, Chief Financial Officer, Carl Zeiss India, said, "Vidya Drishti programme in Kalaburagi in Karnataka will be the company's pilot programme for the country. Based on the learnings it brings and the requirements for such screenings among deserving populations, the programme may be expanded to other districts of Karnataka, and event other States. Vidya Drishti is our first attempt. In addition, Aloka Foundation has already screened over 3.5 million people across the country during various campaigns."

Minister for IT, BT, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge said, "There is an urgent need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, where access to quality eye care remains a challenge. This collaboration between ZEISS India and Karnataka marks a significant step toward bridging this gap.

"Good vision is essential for a child's education and overall development. Through the Vidya Drishti project, we aim to ensure that over 500,000 school children receive the critical eye care they need. A child's ability to see clearly should not be a privilege – it should be their right!. A child who cannot see clearly cannot learn effectively," said Mr. Kharge. By extending this initiative to benefit nearly 6,00,000 underprivileged adults in Kalaburagi, the government is taking a holistic approach to eye health.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "Karnataka remains committed in its mission to eliminate preventable blindness and ensure accessible eye-care for all. Our Asha Kirana initiative has already made significant strides in delivering eye-care services directly to our citizens' doorsteps."

## Sight Saver Run to raise awareness on glaucoma

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In observance of World Glaucoma Week from March 9 to 15, Narayana Nethralaya Eye Hospital is set to organise a Sight Saver Run on March 9 at Jarakabande Reserve Forest, Ramagondanahalli, to raise awareness about glaucoma. Ahead of the event, at a press meet on Thursday, Naren Shetty, Vice-Chairman, Narayana Nethralaya spoke about the silent nature of glaucoma, explaining that it occurs without pain, leading many patients to remain unaware of it.The race will offer two categories - a 5K and a 10K run.

The event will be flagged off by South Asian Games champion Arjun Devaiah, and 500 participants have already registered while spot registrations will be open.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

**FRIDAY, MAR. 07**
RISE 06:32 SET 18:29
RISE 12:26 SET 00:54

**SATURDAY, MAR. 08**
RISE 06:31 SET 18:29
RISE 13:26 SET 01:55

**SUNDAY, MAR. 09**
RISE 06:31 SET 18:29
RISE 14:25 SET 02:51

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 34 | 23 |
| Mysuru | 35 | 15 |
| Bengaluru | 34 | 20 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**34°C** Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**34°C** The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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# Kannada cinema should learn from Malayalam films: Ramya on female roles

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Actor Ramya lamented the lack of quality female characters in Kannada cinema even as she praised the Malayalam film industry for constantly presenting progressive female roles, while speaking at the panel discussion on "Women in Cinema: Challenges, Triumphs and the Road Ahead" at the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) on Thursday.

**Malayalam films**

"When I watch Malayalam movies I wonder why I don't see such strong female roles in Kannada films. I see very few stories from a woman's perspective in Kannada," opined Ramya. The actor-politician was joined by cinematographer Preetha Jayaraman and Telugu filmmaker Nandini Reddy in the panel discussion.

Actor Ramya at 16th BIFFes on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Ramya added that she was disappointed with how "hyper-masculine" the stories are in Kannada.

"I continue to see macho protagonists in Kannada films. Our filmmakers think being vulnerable is weak and don't portray realistic characters on screen. However, this isn't the case in Malayalam. Women as central characters in films will make society more empathetic."

The actor recollected her early days in the film industry and rued that directors didn't have the habit of providing scripts to the heroines.

"When I debuted in *Abhi* (opposite Puneeth Rajkumar) in 2003, the director (Dinesh Babu) didn't give me a script at all. I was asked to run one day on the sets, and I felt bizarre. I didn't understand why I was asked to perform in a particular way. I need to be given a medal for finishing that film," she said.

Ramya also spoke about the pay disparity in the Kannada film industry. "Actors who starred opposite me are quite well-known today, but back then, they were just starting. After my film was declared a hit, the male actor's salary would increase by 50 times, whereas my remuneration went up only by five times. It reached a point where I let go of films as I didn't get paid how much I deserved," said Ramya.

**Women-centric stories**

The actor, who turned producer with her banner Apple Box Production, felt the industry needs producers willing to back women-centric stories.

"I produced *Swathi Muthina Male Haniye* (starring Siri Ravikumar and Raj B. Shetty). The female lead in the film was in love with another man despite being married. We are all complex and vulnerable people. She has emotions just like a man has. The film won great critical acclaim, but it didn't do well at the box office. It shows people aren't ready for such movies, and that's disappointing."

**On Emergency**

Responding to a question on the failure of Kangana Ranaut's *Emergency*, Ramya said the Hindi biopic was a "badly made movie." "The result of *Emergency* has nothing to do with who Kangana as an individual is. It was just a badly made movie. Kangana's *Manikarnika* (2019) also faced multiple issues before its release. However, it did well at the box office because the content was good." *Emergency* was released on January 17 this year.

## IT employees to gather at Freedom Park on Sunday

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) is organising a mass gathering of IT sector employees at Freedom Park in the city on March 9 at 2.30 p.m., highlighting the employees' right to a healthy work- life balance.

The union's demands include enforcement of daily working hour limits and thereby prevention of excessive overtime and burnout, ending the exemption given to the IT sector from Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, strict action against labour law violations, and implementation of 'Right to Disconnect.' Sooraj Nidiyanga, Secretary, KITU, told *The Hindu* that more than 1000 people are expected to participate. "It is a well-known fact, both within and outside the industry, that the standard eight to nine hour workday is largely a myth. Employees are frequently compelled to work beyond official hours, including weekends, without any additional compensation. This relentless pressure from employers is causing serious physical and mental health problems for workers," said a release issued by the union. According to the latest '*State of Emotional Well-being Report 2024*' by 1to1help, an employee assistance programme provider, more than 90% of corporate employees under the age of 25 reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety.

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# Medical wearables tech: an early warning system for your health

Whether a fitness enthusiast uses a smartwatch to track her daily activity or a diabetic patient utilises a continuous glucose monitor to check blood glucose levels, these devices promise real-time data and valuable insights to help both patients and healthcare providers make informed decisions

Somita Pal

Over the past decade, patient care has seen a paradigm shift, with advancements in medical wearables turning out to be a powerful catalyst in the management of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

These gadgets are no longer merely lifestyle accessories but are increasingly becoming essential tools that empower individuals to monitor their health in real-time and take a more proactive approach to their healthcare management.

Healthcare professionals say this tech has helped elevate people's awareness about risk factors of lifestyle diseases like heart disease and diabetes and has changed their focus from reactive healthcare approaches to more proactive and preventive care.

"I had a patient in her early 40s sometime ago, who started using an Apple Watch and noticed an unusual heart rate," says Nagesh Waghmare, a cardiologist from Mumbai, adding that though the patient was asymptomatic, blood tests revealed that she was pre-diabetic and had high lipid levels. "She improved her diet and focused on other lifestyle changes, including exercise. Now, all her parameters are normal. There are many examples like hers where we have managed prevention of the disease," Dr. Waghmare says.

Wearable tech has helped elevate people's awareness about the risk factors of lifestyle diseases. Photograph used for representational purposes only . GETTY IMAGES

## A seismic shift post pandemic

Medical wearables such as smartwatches, fitness trackers, and biosensors are electronic devices designed to be worn on the body to monitor and manage various health parameters: blood sugar levels, heart rate, physical activity, sleep patterns, and even blood oxygen levels.

Whether a fitness enthusiast uses a smartwatch to track her daily activity or a diabetic patient utilises a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) to check blood glucose levels, these devices promise real-time data and valuable insights to help both patients and healthcare providers make informed decisions.

While CGMs are predominantly used for diabetes management, other medical wearables are making waves in cardiac and respiratory health. Rahul Baxi, a diabetologist in Mumbai, notes that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted approval to the Apple Watch to detect atrial fibrillation, a serious heart condition. "There have been numerous instances where the Apple Watch has alerted individuals about irregular heart rates, allowing for early intervention and the prevention of life-threatening complications," he says.

Wearables have also played a vital role in monitoring respiratory health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Devices that track respiratory rates, oxygen saturation, and pulse rates have become essential tools for patients with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

The COVID-19 pandemic was a turning point for the adoption of wearable medical devices. "There is a clear distinction pre- and post-COVID-19. After the pandemic, the wearable medical market has exploded. People are now more aware of the importance of monitoring their vitals," Dr. Waghmare explains.

During the pandemic, devices such as pulse oximeters became household essentials and the trend has only accelerated since then. "Today, people in their 40s and 50s are increasingly using Fitbits, Apple Watches, and other devices to monitor their heart rate and blood pressure, helping them stay more informed about their health," he adds.

## Empowering patients

The visual feedback that devices offer often serves as a wake-up call, encouraging healthier lifestyle choices, say healthcare experts.

"CGMs have helped patients see how their sugar spikes after eating certain foods, and it motivates them to make changes," says Dr. Baxi. For instance, a patient might notice that their sugar levels rise more after eating idli compared to sprouts, prompting them to choose healthier alternatives. "This real-time data makes a far greater impact than just telling someone to avoid certain foods," he adds. "It empowers them to take control of their health. We are seeing patients who are tracking their sleep quality, physical activity, and stress levels and are taking proactive steps towards maintaining long-term health."

This constant data flow is crucial for the early detection of health issues. For instance, patients with cardiovascular conditions can receive immediate alerts if irregular heart rhythms are detected, allowing for timely interventions before complications arise.

"Wearables have shifted the focus from reactive treatment to proactive prevention, enabling individuals to monitor their health continuously and seek medical attention before major issues arise," says Rushikesh Patil, a cardiologist in Mumbai.

> With CGMs, I can monitor my patient's condition from anywhere in the world and make real-time adjustments to their insulin dosage.

## Better patient-doctor interaction

Medical wearables are also enhancing the interaction between patients and doctors, particularly in the realm of tele-health. By integrating data from wearables, tele-health platforms provide healthcare providers with a comprehensive view of a patient's health before consultations. This allows for more accurate diagnoses and the development of personalised treatment plans.

Remote patient monitoring has been significantly improved by wearable devices such as CGMs, which allow healthcare providers to monitor patients from afar and make real-time adjustments to treatment plans.

Dr. Baxi, for instance, has used CGMs to track his patients' blood sugar levels remotely. "With CGMs, I can monitor my patient's condition from anywhere in the world and make real-time adjustments to their insulin dosage," he says. This level of monitoring was not possible before the advent of wearables, making healthcare more accessible and convenient for the patient.

Dr. Waghmare says wearables have improved the compliance rate to treatment as, traditionally, patients would return for a check-up every few months, leaving long gaps between consultations. "Previously, we relied on infrequent visits to adjust medication dosages based on blood pressure and heart rate. But now, with wearables, we can monitor these vitals continuously and adjust treatment plans much more effectively," he says.

This real-time data helps doctors optimise medication dosages, ensuring patients receive the best care for their recovery and for the improvement of their long-term survival. "We can confidently adjust the dose of medicines based on real-time heart rate or blood pressure data, which was not possible before these devices," he notes.

## Future of health monitoring

The future of medical wearable technology looks even more promising, with researchers developing innovative health-monitoring tools that will seamlessly integrate into daily life. Smart textiles, for example, are being developed to embed sensors directly into clothing. These smart fabrics could track heart rates, respiratory rates, and even glucose levels, offering non-invasive health monitoring in real time.

Non-invasive glucose monitoring is another exciting area of research. Scientists are exploring methods to measure glucose levels through biofluids such as sweat, saliva, or tears, potentially eliminating the need for devices that puncture the skin. As these technologies continue to evolve, wearable devices will become even more integrated into everyday life, offering seamless and non-invasive health monitoring for all users.

## Affordability, a concern

Despite the numerous benefits of medical wearables, affordability remains a significant barrier, especially in countries like India. Devices like CGMs can be expensive, with the cost of sensors adding up over time. Gaurish Kenkre, general manager and physiotherapist, Atharv Ability, Mumbai, acknowledges that only a small percentage of his patients can afford CGMs and other medical wearables, primarily due to their high costs.

"In India, a CGM sensor costs around ₹5,000 for two weeks, which means patients spend roughly ₹10,000 a month. That is not affordable for everyone," Dr. Baxi acknowledges.

However, he emphasises that even short-term use of these medical wearables can provide valuable insights. "For example, even using a CGM for a few weeks can help patients understand how their diet, exercise, and medications affect their blood sugar levels," he says. This information can then be used to make long-term lifestyle changes, improving overall health outcomes.

Dr. Patil says there is also another issue to consider: there are many false positives and false negatives. "Individuals should not panic due to the results: they must consult their doctor," he says.

As technology continues to evolve, medical wearables are set to play an increasingly vital role in healthcare, not just for diabetes management but across various medical fields.

*(Somita Pal is a journalist with nearly two decades of experience covering healthcare in Mumbai. She covers a range of topics, focusing on health, social issues, and civic news. somitapal@gmail.com)*

Students wearing Michael Jackson masks at an awareness rally on vitiligo in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

# *Harnessing gut microbiome to halt vitiligo*

Ramya Kannan

The current decade will probably be known as the decade of the gut, given the incredible number of significant biological connections we are making between the gut and human well being. However, this is not about the gut per se; this is about the role of gut-friendly bacteria in the process of re-pigmentation, particularly in persons with vitiligo.

Vitiligo is a chronic auto immune disorder where the body's defence system begins to attack the pigment-producing cells and causes de-pigmented white patches on the skin. While usually the condition can be only cosmetic, these patches on the skin can be stigmatising for the patient, particularly if they are present on the face or arms, and thus obvious to others. New research from Northwestern University from a pre-clinical trial in mice has shown that a natural compound derived from gut-friendly bacteria significantly slows down the progression of vitiligo and may restore pigmentation. The findings, if substantiated through rigorous double blind random control clinical trials, could offer hope to millions affected by the autoimmune disease.

It is estimated that vitiligo affects 0.5% to 2% of the global population and is linked to other health challenges, including for some persons, higher risks of cardiovascular disease, psychological distress, and endocrine disorders. The prevalence of vitiligo in India has been invariably reported between 0.25% and 4% of dermatology outpatients across studies from India, and up to 8.8% in Gujarat and Rajasthan, as per a paper in *the Indian Dermatology Online Journal*. Studies and observations have recorded an erosion of self confidence among those with vitiligo, resulting in an impact on the mental health of the individual.

**Vitiligo affects 0.5% to 2% of the global population and is linked to other issues, including higher risks of cardiovascular disease, psychological distress, and endocrine disorders**

"The results in our model were astonishing," says I. Caroline Le Poole, professor of dermatology and microbiology-immunology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "We found that administering a microbial compound weekly to vitiligo-prone mice significantly suppressed disease progression. It made a spectacular difference in an aggressive model of the disease." The results of the study were recently published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.

"We are trying to understand the pigment cell and how it works. Vitiligo patches can be a big deal for patients, particularly during adolescence and youth," Dr. Le Poole explains in a video call. While acknowledging the renewed global interest in what microbiomes can do for health, she adds that she was interested first in the effect of the gut microbiome on antibody-mediated auto immune disease, here in the development of vitiligo patches.

Dr. Le Poole and her colleagues administered a microbial product weekly to vitiligo-prone mice over an 18-week period. By the end, pigment loss on the mice's backs was reduced by 74%. The product reduced killer T cells that attack the skin's pigment and increased protective regulatory T cells, which are typically scarce in vitiligo patients. "This simple microbial compound could work as a standalone therapy or in synergy with existing treatments," Dr. Le Poole says.

However, she adds that it is necessary to intervene as early as possible and that the effects might not be as dramatic or efficient in advanced disease. There are typically two peaks in persons with vitiligo – in adolescence, and then, again, during the 40s and 50s.

*(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)*

**For feedback and suggestions** for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

# On women's health

Athira Elssa Johnson

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

**QUESTION 1**

___ is the hormone primarily responsible for regulating the menstrual cycle and supporting pregnancy. It also helps maintain bone density and affects mood and skin health.

**QUESTION 2**

Often recommended during pregnancy, this B vitamin helps prevent neural tube defects in developing babies and supports red blood cell formation. Leafy greens, citrus fruits, and legumes are rich in this nutrient. What is it?

**QUESTION 3**

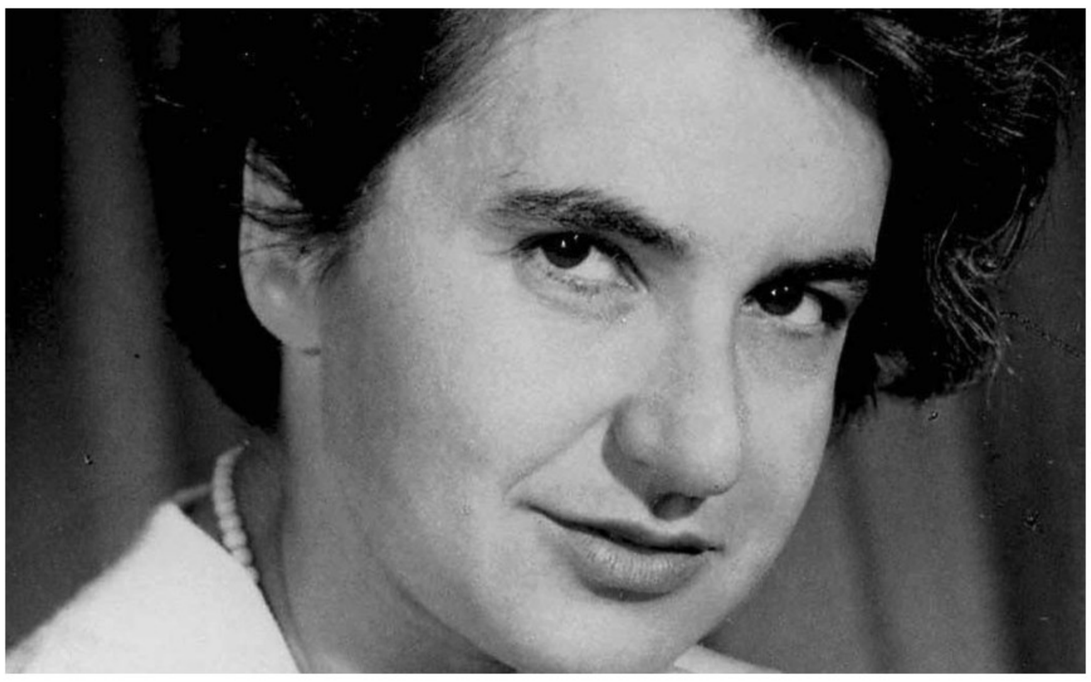
_____ is a condition where the body doesn't produce enough red blood cells or haemoglobin, leading to fatigue, weakness, and pale skin. It's often caused by iron deficiency, especially in menstruating women.

**QUESTION 4**

Known as the "sunshine vitamin," __ plays a crucial role in calcium absorption and bone health, which is particularly important for women to prevent osteoporosis after menopause.

**QUESTION 5**

Progesterone levels remain constant throughout a woman's menstrual cycle. True or False



In the above visual identify the Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose groundbreaking research led to the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA , a major leap in understanding genetics and hereditary health risks for women.
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## Man found dead outside apartment

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A 31-year-old start-up founder was found dead outside his apartment in Parappana Agrahara on Thursday. The deceased Mayank Rajani was a native of U.P.

According to the police, Mayank had moved to the city a few years ago for work and was living with his female friend at a rented apartment on the 12th floor of a residential complex near Kudlu.

The incident occurred on the morning of March 4 but was reported on Thursday. At the time of the incident, his friend was sleeping.

Investigation revealed that Mayank was dejected over his failed start-up and took the extreme step. "The woman has claimed in her statement that the start-up didn't do well, and the victim had health issues," said a police official. On Wednesday, Mayank's parents took custody of the body following the autopsy.

*(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)*

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# Key protein whose dysfunction could trigger neurodegenerative diseases identified: NCBS study

Using the Drosophila model, the group led by professor Raghu Padinjat identified a protein named Extended synaptotagmin (Esyt) that sits close to the cell membrane

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Neurobiologists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR) have identified a key protein whose dysfunction could potentially trigger neurodegenerative diseases.

Using the Drosophila model, the group led by professor Raghu Padinjat has identified a protein named Extended synaptotagmin (Esyt) that sits close to the cell membrane. The study was published in the Journal of Cell Biology.

According to NCBS, a cell's exterior region comprises plasma membrane (PM) and endoplasmic reticulum (ER).

**Outer boundary**

PM forms the cell's outer boundary, gatekeeping entry of material into the cell and communicating between the outside of the cell and its interior, whereas the ER is a network of membranes inside the cell. The region where PM and ER meet is known as the membrane contact site (MCS). This site permits intra-cellular signalling, transporting essentials like lipids and calcium between organelles.

"Over the past decade or so, modern genomics and technological advancements have helped scientists establish that more than 20 proteins are located at the MCS between the ER and PM. However, there is still limited scientific evidence to answer why certain proteins are prevalent at these sites or what role they play in cell health," NCBS said.

The present study has tracked how some of these proteins tune the operations at the cell MCS, whose health is directly linked to cell health.

**Calcium's role**

NCBS said for photoreceptors, a special type of neuron in the retina, calcium is a message encoder. It encodes and delivers information (about light intensity) from the surroundings to the cell, which in this case is the amount of light. When light is absorbed, the lipid transfer activity of RDGB at MCS is triggered. As lipids are exhausted, this stock needs to be replenished.

"It will happen only when calcium is effectively able to communicate this to the cell. This means that the cell needs to stay informed about its surroundings, which we think is being done by the changes in intracellular calcium," said Raghu Padinjat, Professor, NCBS.

Taking this research a step ahead with the newly identified protein Esyt, researchers said that it possesses a C2 domain that can bind and detect calcium. Loss of the ability to bind calcium by the C2 domain of Esyt makes the cell incapable of adjusting its MCS function in response to illumination.

A file photo of the National Centre for Biological Sciences.

## Educationist M.R. Doreswamy passes away

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Educationist, former MLC, and founding president of PES University, M.R. Doreswamy, 88, passed away on Thursday evening at his residence in Banashankari II Stage.

He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, and grandchildren. The mortal remains will be kept for public viewing at his residence till Friday afternoon. Later, the last rites will be performed at the Banashankari crematorium with police honours, family sources said.

Born in Narravuru village of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, on November 7, in an agricultural family, he went on to occupy the position of Chancellor of PES University. He served for a term as Advisor, Education Reforms, for the Government of Karnataka.

Considering his contribution to the field of education, the State government honoured him with the Kannada Rajyotsava award and the Kempegowda Award.

PES Group of Institutions started by him is spread over Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

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## KSCPCR urges State govt. to relax age criteria for enrolment to class 1

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**The RTE Act-2009 and Rules, 2012, prescribes the age limit for enrolling a child to class 1 as having compulsorily completed six years as on June 1**

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has urged the government to resolve the confusion regarding the rule that children must complete 6 years by June 1 to enroll for class 1 in the State.

In a letter to the Principal Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), K. Naganna Gowda, Chairperson of KSCPCR, said that from the academic year 2025-26, the department has taken steps to implement the rule.

"This has caused concern among parents, and many parents are visiting the Commission every day and requesting us to take appropriate steps to relax the age criteria for the enrolment of class 1," he said.

"As a result of admitting children to pre-KG (Kindergarten) as per the previous rules, this year, around 5 to 6 lakh students are facing difficulty in enrolling in Class 1 after completing UKG. Parents have requested to relax the age limit set for admitting children to Class 1 from the academic year of 2025-26," stated the letter.

Earlier, the government had fixed only the minimum age limit for enrolment of school children as four years and maximum five years for LKG, UKG, and class 1.

The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009 (RTE Act-2009) and the Rules, 2012, prescribes the age limit for enrolling a child to class 1 as having compulsorily completed six years as on June 1. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) has also mandated that the minimum age limit for admission to class 1 should be six years as on June 1.

Following the Union Education Ministry's order, the DSEL made the rule mandatory from the 2023-24 academic year and issued an order on July 26, 2022, in this regard.

# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Accidents in industrial units in Chhattisgarh in 13 months

**171** As many as 124 workers were killed and 86 injured in 171 accidents that occurred in industrial units in Chhattisgarh in 13 months between January 1, 2024, to January 31 this year. A compensation of ₹17,23,68,454 was given to the kin of the deceased workers in these accidents. PTI

### The drop in automobile retail sales in February

**7** In per cent. Automobile retail sales across categories, including two-wheelers, witnessed a drop of 7% in February amid declining demand, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations. Overall retail sales in the domestic market stood at 18,99,196 units last month. PTI

### Number of children injured by leftover explosives in Syria

**188** Landmines and unexploded ordnances in Syria have killed or injured at least 188 children since president Bashar al-Assad's overthrow in December, the Save the Children charity said. The group called on the authorities to speed up the process of clearing mines. AFP

### The U.S. trade deficit surges to a new record in January

**131.4** In $ billion. The U.S. trade deficit surged to a new record in January, data showed, as imports spiked while tariff worries flared in the month of President Donald Trump's inauguration. The overall trade gap of the economy ballooned 34% to $131.4 billion. PTI

### Number of persons in Tenkasi ostracised over a land dispute

**30** The National Human Rights Commission said it has taken suo motu cognisance of the reports alleging ostracisation of 30 people of eight families by a village chief over a land dispute in Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu, and issued a notice to its district collector. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# The academic link between Nepal and India

When it comes to the history of 'modern' formal education in Nepal, a cursory glance will reveal that not only is it not very old, it also displays intricate connections with India. Higher educational training embeds avenues that register learning experiences as impactful memories which shape future lives and proclivities

FULL CONTEXT

Swatahsiddha Sarkar

On February 16, a third-year woman student from Nepal was found dead by suicide in the Bhubaneswar-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT). Initial investigation by the police revealed that harassment from a fellow male student had led the student to take her own life. Other students from Nepal carried out a protest stating that the university had ignored the consistent complaints made by the female student about the harassment. This led to KIIT halting academic activities and ordering students from Nepal to vacate the campus. This move caused widespread outrage, with the Nepali government also getting involved. KIIT eventually withdrew the order and resumed the academic session.

This piece intends to shed light on some necessary but seldom discussed issues affecting students from Nepal in India.

## Destination India, for higher education

The latest available All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) data reveals that during 2021-22, 46,878 foreign students from 170 nations were enrolled in various institutes of higher learning in India

**In rage:** An agitator holds a poster during a protest over the death of a Nepali student on the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) campus, in Bhubaneswar, on February 19. PTI.

**Table 1:** Students from Nepal studying at different levels in Indian universities and institutes of higher learning

| Enrolment of foreign students from Nepal | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PhD | 28 | 51 | 33 | 43 | 42 | 50 | 48 | 86 | 104 | 114 |
| MPhil | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| PG | 1,015 | 1,085 | 1,195 | 1,272 | 1,285 | 1,357 | 1,357 | 1,608 | 1,587 | 1,534 |
| UG | 5,839 | 6,859 | 7,044 | 7,544 | 8,796 | 9,191 | 9,644 | 10,804 | 10,836 | 10,708 |
| PG Diploma | 7 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 18 | 15 | 7 | 12 | 14 | 8 |
| Diploma | 251 | 265 | 360 | 617 | 1,010 | 799 | 1,562 | 1,252 | 977 | 666 |
| Certificate | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 64 | 7 | 23 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Integrated | 22 | 77 | 57 | 77 | 85 | 102 | 104 | 115 | 52 | 85 |
| Total students enrolled from Nepal | 7,167 | 8,360 | 8,694 | 9,574 | 11,250 | 11,521 | 12,747 | 13,880 | 13,574 | 13,126 |
| Total foreign students enrolled | 34,774 | 39,517 | 42,297 | 45,421 | 47,575 | 46,144 | 47,427 | 49,348 | 48,035 | 46,878 |
| **% of students enrolled from Nepal** | **21%** | **21%** | **21%** | **21%** | **23.60%** | **24.90%** | **26.88%** | **28.10%** | **28.26%** | **28%** |

Source: Compiled from AISHE Reports of respective years

### THE GIST

- On February 16, a third-year Nepali woman student was found dead by suicide in the Bhubaneswar-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT).
- Nepal's academic relationship with India and Indian academic institutions in particular illustrate a rich history.
- Without even being colonised, the colonial legacy of Nepal's education system was established through two routes: first, by affiliating the first college in Nepal to universities of colonial India, thereby, diminishing any opportunity to premise pedagogy around Nepali roots and branches (except language); and the second was through college instructors.

**Foreign student enrolment in India**

The latest available All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) data reveals that during 2021-22, 46,878 foreign students from 170 nations were enrolled in various institutes of higher learning in India, and that the highest share of foreign students came from Nepal (28%). The percentage share of foreign students from Nepal had been the highest (21% when the figure for total foreign student enrolment was 34,774) even in 2012-13, as per AISHE data. It is thus evidenced that while the number of foreign students enrolling in India has been on the rise over the years, majority of them came from Nepal. Table 1 gives us a brief overview of the enrolment of students from Nepal studying different courses offered by almost 180 Indian universities and institutes.

These students are spread across the nation – from Kashmir University in the north to Kerala University in the south, from North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in the east to Gujarat Ayurveda University in the west. While the enrolment is highest in the undergraduate category, enrolment in higher categories like PhD displays a steady increase, although it is far from being impressive. Students from Nepal display an increasing attraction to Indian institutes offering training and degrees in engineering and technology. As a matter of fact, their presence in IITs (Delhi, Kanpur, Roorkee, Guwahati among others), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore), and other private institutes like KIIT, has been substantial.

**An academic relationship**

Nepal's academic relationship with India and Indian academic institutions in particular illustrate a rich history. Paying a cursory look at that historical tapestry, as shown by scholars like Pratyush Onta or Rhoderick Chalmers, would help us recognise the contribution of Banaras and Darjeeling in shaping Nepali public sphere from both within and outside Nepal. However, unlike the colonial legacy associated to the 'Gorkhas', the cultural linkage between Nepal and India, which epitomised India as an educational hub for the Nepalis, is as old as the gurukul system. Since the days of the Rana regime when education in Nepal remained exclusively an elitist affair, places in India like Banaras, Patna, Dehradun, Gorakhpur and Darjeeling opened up opportunities to those who could afford to send their wards to India for education.

Further, when it comes to the history of the 'modern' formal education system in Nepal, a cursory glance will reveal that not only is it not very old, but it also displays intricate connections with India. It is said that the western-style of education began in Nepal with the establishment of the Durbar High School in 1854, although accessible only to the children of the royal family and courtiers. In 1901, some steps were taken for the benefit of the public, as schools, such as the Bhasa Pathshala (Language Schools), were opened up with Nepali (then known as Gorkhali/Khas) as the medium of instruction. The Tri-Chandra College was established in Kathmandu in 1918 and was initially affiliated to Calcutta University which later shifted to Patna University, India. As per this affiliation, the responsibility of the college lied only with the teaching part while the overall academic programme, including courses, textbooks, pedagogy, examinations, award of degree, were run by the affiliating Indian institute.

**Letting go of colonial influence**

Thus, without even being colonised, the colonial legacy of Nepal's education system was established through two routes: first, by affiliating the first college in Nepal to universities of colonial India, thereby, diminishing any opportunity to premise pedagogy around Nepali roots and branches (except language); and the second was through college instructors, all of whom had received their master's degrees from Indian universities, and therefore felt secure in following the same content. Before the establishment of the Tribhuvan University in 1959, there was no provision for postgraduate instruction in the country, and higher education was limited to the undergraduate level. Social science teaching, followed by science, was introduced in Nepal only in the 1940s, starting with economics and geography, while sociology and anthropology came a little while later in the 1950s.

In summary, until the 1950s, the colonial legacy of British India strongly influenced Nepal's education, even when attempts were undertaken to 'Nepalise' the education system. Towards this end, the Gandhian model of education was valorised as a reference point albeit with certain tweaks. Finally, in 1954, the government constituted the National Educational Planning Commission (NEPC) to give recommendations across all aspects of education, having declared that the goal is to make education relevant to 'national need'. Later, with the introduction of the New Education System Plan (NESP) in 1971, the entire machinery was revamped. Nepal began her independent journey in the sphere of higher education, even though students from Nepal continued to enrol themselves in Indian higher education institutions. Major players within the intellectual field post-1950s Nepal, were trained in India, and with the passage of time the numbers kept on rising, even amidst ups and downs in diplomatic relations between these two nations.

**Cultural capital**

Higher educational training, even though available as a commodity, still embeds avenues that register learning experiences as impactful memories which shape future lives and proclivities. These memories, among other things, are potential sources of South Asian cultural capital that grows spontaneously when nurtured with care. And when this process involves the category of 'foreign students', it becomes the responsibility of the host institution to prevent the process from turning into a pedagogy of the oppressed.

Students are students, no matter where they are from. Creating categories within studenthood and offering differential treatment is an act of institutionally sponsored ragging that devalues the institution, renders the educational ambience volatile, and most importantly, propagates a culture of misanthropy, thereby nullifying the core of education in itself, no matter where the institution appears on the charts of national or international grading systems.

Moreover, the KIIT instance, when viewed in the light of the Indo-Nepal Peace Treaty of 1950, appears to be a case that is in direct conflict with Article 6 (confirms national treatment to be offered to the nationals of either country) and Article 7 (confirms reciprocal privileges of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement to the nationals of one country in the territories of the other) of the said Treaty, and thereby has the potency to affect bilateral ties between India and Nepal.

*Swatahsiddha Sarkar teaches at the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal.*

**Turn the beat around** (Clockwise from left) Trilok Gurtu, Aruna Sairam and Ravi Chary, were some of the performers at the festival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Thrill in the rhythm

## The third edition of Mahindra Percussion Festival saw performances by Trilok Gurtu, BeatRoute and others, transform the event into an experience

Anurag Tagat

An air of reverence greeted anyone who walked into the Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts auditorium in Konanakunte on March 1 and 2. The third edition of Mahindra Percussion Festival in association with The Hindu was dedicated to the music and life of Ustad Zakir Hussain, who passed away in December 2024.

A photo exhibit featuring the tabla legend at his most candid, captured by Dayanita Singh, was a great way to pay tribute, as was a gold-framed portrait of Hussain illuminated at the side of the stage. Among the festival's curation of five acts to perform across two days, there was not necessarily a direct tribute through song but the likes of sitarist Ravi Chary and Chennai duo SNAX did mention the impact that the Ustad had on their artistry.

Day one started off with vocalist Aruna Sairam's fusion act, Thrillana Project. Giving (aptly) exciting takes on thillanas, the artist gave space to all her instrumentalists, whom she lovingly praised as "magicians", and that included mridangam artist BC Manjunath, Giridhar Udupa on ghatam, drummer Arun Kumar, violinist Jyotsana Srikanth, keyboardist Sangeet Haldipur and bassist Shalini Mohan. In addition to Sairam's sublime vocals, since this was a festival dedicated to percussion, it was only apt that Kumar, Manjunath and Udupa engaged in a konnakol and solo-driven movement that was a treat for audiences.

Understanding that percussion was at the center of it all, sitarist Ravi Chary too let his tabla artist Satyajit Talwalkar start off their performance, under the moniker Ravi Chary Crossing, with konnakol. Performing off his 2012 album *Crossing*, Chary, like Sairam, was more than happy to let his fellow instrumentalists take the spotlight, from Gino Banks' charged-up drumming to Sheldon D'Silva making his bass guitar sing. Haldipur was back on keys as well for consecutive sets and led the audience in a delightful singalong portion.

After a half-hour break, audiences returned to their seats to find a massive setup on stage for Trilok Gurtu Project. Joined by the likes of Chandana Bala Kalyan on vocals (a versatile voice) and guitarist Dhruv Ghanekar, there were a few Marathi *abhangs* as well as an African song that the band carried off with gusto. The most intriguing part, however, remained Gurtu's mad-scientist-like percussive solo, featuring everything from a steel bucket to his own breathing.

It was esoteric at times, but also mesmerising to watch a veteran like Gurtu in action, stepping away from his crowded drum setup to sit on a cajon and jam with his band.

Day two brought in just a couple of acts, but they were playing to a full house. SNAX, with drummer Ramkumar Kanakarajan and mridangam artist Sumesh Narayanan, raised the volume levels to the highest levels with their set, comprising songs from their 2024 debut album *Thrillex*. SNAX's set was fluid, fast-paced and nonstop, which is exactly what you can expect from an opening act tasked with drumming up energy levels in the crowd. Their performance at Mahindra Percussion Festival came just as they are set to go on a Europe tour, taking this electronica-heavy blend of South Indian rhythms, rock and metal to new levels.

Electronic music was also a key element in Ranjit Barot and Roysten Abel's BeatRoute, featuring five instrumentalists from Kerala and another five from Rajasthan. The North and South rhythms were explored not just with sound, but also with visuals as a movie played during each of the songs. Spotlighting each instrument on stage, Barot got a drum and konnakol solo segment, which was a runaway hit. Leading a project of this scale comes with challenges of the push and pull of space among a total of 11 artists including Barot himself, but he was the rhythmic bridge between worlds. "After that, if you're not feeling good, then there's something wrong," Barot said after the final ensemble piece involving all instrumentalists on stage.

Feeling good was certainly the prevalent atmosphere among the thousand-odd attendees at the Mahindra Percussion Festival – now a well-oiled machine in its third edition. It will likely continue to dip into India's rich percussive traditions and offer something new each year.

## STEPOUT

### In good company

This Women's Day, treat yourself to an outing filled with special moments and exclusive vouchers at SuzyQ. The first 50 women to dine there can look forward to gorgeous giveaways. There are also three grand prize vouchers, complimentary cupcakes, a special cocktail menu and social media contest that you can participate in, apart from other fun activities.
*At SuzyQ, Queens Road, on March 8. Call 47250088.*

### Sip and slice

Daysie – All Day Casual Bar celebrates Women's Day with exclusive offers and special experiences. Along with giveaways and special dining vouchers for the first 50 women guests, there are prizes to be won and glasses to be clinked. Four guests will also get an exclusive invite to the soft launch of Serious Slice, on Cunningham Road.
*At MG Road and RR Nagar outlets on March 8.*

### Her art, her voice

The Alliance Francaise and Studio of Movement Arts and Therapies will celebrate International Women's Day with a series of expressive art experiences. Themed 'Eros and the Deep Feminine', the all-day festival includes five events.
*At Alliance Francaise between 11am and 8pm. Most events open to all. Call 07899562404 for details.*

# A new chapter

## Chiguru, a Kannada theatre festival, will showcase six original productions this month

The Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA) will present Chiguru, a Kannada theatre festival celebrating original productions. Meaning "fresh growth," Chiguru aims to revitalise Bengaluru's theatre scene by showcasing six fresh narratives from leading theatre companies.

Taking place over two weekends – March 7 to 9 and 14 to 16 – at PCPA's intimate black box theatre, the festival will feature productions by CFD (Centre for Film and Drama), Sanchaya, Jangama Collective, Sanchari Theatre, VASP Theatre, and Bangalore Theatre Collective. Each group will debut a new work, reinforcing Chiguru's commitment to original storytelling.

Renowned theatre director, actor, and writer Prakash Belawadi serves as the festival's Artistic Director. Reflecting on Bengaluru's theatre history, he notes, "In the '70s, Bengaluru was at the forefront of the Kannada Renaissance, with a thriving theatre and cinema culture. However, we lost many performance spaces in the '90s. Now, we are beginning to regroup. Chiguru is an extension of that. One of its key conditions is that no group can stage an existing play – it must be a new production. This ensures six original works every year."

Beyond performances, Chiguru, Prakash adds, will provide crucial support to theatre-makers, including seeding funds, free access to venue infrastructure, and marketing support. He envisions the festival as a catalyst for Kannada theatre, generating over 100 performances across the city throughout the year.

PCPA, South Bengaluru's new cultural centre, offers a diverse arts programme across its four performance spaces. Now in its third year, the centre continues to support artistic innovation.

The festival will be inaugurated by veteran theatre and film director MS Sathyu.

*At Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA), Konanakunte, Bengaluru. On March 7 to 9 and 14 to 16 at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets: ₹299 per show | ₹799 weekend pass | ₹1,499 season pass on BookMyShow. Call 9901151383*

**Hit repeat** Funky flavours await at LICK, Bengaluru. PRAVEEN S | THE HINDU

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

LICK or Lavonne Ice Cream Kitchen is the city's latest spot to cool off this summer

# Get licking

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

It is three o'clock in the middle of the week and there is a line spilling out of LICK on to the pavement, and lining two of its walls. Not even a week into its opening and the staff are politely trying to manage the crowd that is trying to navigate their way into the store and out of the heat.

The Lavonne Ice Cream Kitchen has a lot going for it apart from its tantalisingly-innocent name LICK. Whether it is their sundaes, scoops, melts (ice cream in a delicious, sippable avatar) or mocktails, LICK offers a range of tried-and-tested flavours as well as surprising specials. Where else would one find a toasted coconut ice cream, tropical fruit sorbet and coconut tres leches sundae (Beach Party)? Or a scoop of Watermelon Feta which was sold out within minutes of LICK opening for the day? Or a rather ambiguous sounding carrot milk?

According to Prathana Narang, lead chef at LICK, the menu card did not write itself – a lot of trial and error, combinations and permutations, went into crafting their flavours.

"We spent months on ice cream trials to see whether flavour profiles should be savoury, sweet or a mix of both, and we came up with some interesting flavours such as our watermelon feta. The saltiness of feta paired beautifully with freshness of watermelon in an ice cream," she says, adding, "From the hundreds of experiments we carried out, we narrowed them down to the first 16 that we launched with, chosen from the feedback of a lot of people, helping us perfect it."

Prathana says the aim of the team was to introduce "fun, but relatable flavors" that would appeal to all age groups.

"Almost all of us love avocado on toast for breakfast, so why not as an ice cream? We tried variations such as avocado and olive oil, and avocado and a hint of yogurt for freshness, until we hit on a winning equation for our avocado ice cream which is drizzled with olive oil and served with a slice of toasted bread."

The team also cracked the code for high protein, no added-sugar ice creams. "Every scoop of high protein ice cream contains 15 grams of protein per 100 grams. It was quite a challenge to formulate without compromising on the texture of a scoop, so this is something we are really excited about."

Quite a bit of a science has gone into LICK's offerings, such as the strawberry milk shake for children crafted with monkfruit sweetener "so it doesn't raise their glycemic index".

And still, the experiments continue. "We've tried a roasted tomato and strawberry sorbet paired with burrata cheese and balsamic caviar, and hope to add it soon. We were also thinking in terms of a cheese ice cream, and something with mushroom, but we are still exploring," says Prathana.

Being a pet parent, Prathana was aware that most dogs enjoy chilled treats, and hence the addition of two Drool Bowls to their menu – a watermelon, mint, cucumber cooler, and a peanut butter, banana yoghurt pack. Both bowls can be relished by cats as well.

Prarthana who studied at the Carpigiani Gelato University in Italy, says, "When I was a child, my mom used to make a chocolate cake in the pressure cooker and we always had it with chocolate ice cream. Of course, as we grow up tastes change and we are open to trying new things, but chocolate has always been special for me and I associate my ice cream memory to that decadent delight."

Small wonder then, that there is a smoked chocolate waiting to get licked with scoops such as pecan pie, burnt honey toasted vanilla and more.

*LICK is at HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru*

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Vicky Kaushal as Sambhaji Maharaj in *Chhaava*.

# How 'Chhaava' erases history and leaves no room for complexity

When history in cinema becomes merely a tool to evoke anger, disgust and hatred, it robs us from understanding history in all its complexity. Chhaava's world of Hindus versus Muslims/Indians versus foreigners is far from the real 17th century

Nissim Mannathukkaren

After watching the latest Bollywood blockbuster *Chhaava*, a viewer in Gujarat tore the cinema screen angered by the torture inflicted by Aurangzeb on Sambhaji. Multiple videos of viewers, including children, crying and shouting slogans, after watching the film, have been circulating on social media. Any film that devotes the final 40 of a total 136 minutes, to a brutal depiction of torture is already suspect with its sense of aesthetics.

*Chhaava* does have the laudable goal of setting the historical record straight about Sambhaji as a great warrior and administrator against biased accounts. But it becomes harmful national-level propaganda when it is fixated on the good Hindu versus the bad Muslim binary, skips some incontrovertible facts, and is in complete sync with the ruling party's ideology. Thus, it joins the cohort of over 20 blatant propaganda films made recently such as *The Kashmir Files*, *The Kerala Story*, *The Vaccine War*, *Article 370*, *Bastar - The Naxal Story*, *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*, *JNU: Jahangir National University*, *The Sabarmati Report* and *Samrat Prithviraj*. And *Chhaava*, like some others, was endorsed by the Prime Minister and other Ministers, and made tax-free in certain BJP-ruled States.

**Hindu vs Muslim binary**

*Chhaava*'s world is one in which the relentless quest to expose the evilness of the Muslim Aurangzeb makes it omit that he came to power on the basis of support from the Rajputs; that his administration had the highest percentage of Hindu Mansabdars in Mughal history (33%); that it also had Hindus in the posts of the Dewan and as heads of two important provinces; and that the emperor who imposed the Jizya (but exempted it for Brahmins, Rajputs, women, the elderly, etc.) protected some temples just as he demolished others, according to some historians.

This, of course, does not make Aurangzeb tolerant, only that his orthodoxy had to accommodate political pragmatism. While secularist historians emphasise this political pragmatism, Samira Sheikh shows how Aurangzeb's Sunni bigotry arguably persecuted Shia and other Islamic millenarian groups such as the Mahdavis, Dawoodi Bohras and Sufis more than the Hindus. This persecution had an economic side too – the rising prosperity of these "heretic" groups drew the ire of Aurangzeb's Sunni clerics who had business motives as well.

Of course, these complexities/debates cannot be a part of *Chhaava*'s world in which the quest for Maratha "Swaraj" under Sambhaji is suffused with Hindu imagery and is presented as liberating India from "foreign rule." Actually, the Mughals had already lived in India for over 150 years then. Historian Stewart Gordon argues that Chhatrapati Shivaji, who championed tolerance and syncretism, and who had beseeched Aurangzeb to follow Akbar's tolerance, was not advocating nationalism or the cause of a "universal Hindu rule." Shivaji, too, had a substantial number of Muslims in his administration, including top military commanders.

**No room for nuance**

*Chhaava*'s world of Hindus versus Muslims/Indians versus foreigners is far from the real 17th century in which there were multiple states and emerging European powers, with various cross-cutting alliances and rivalries between them. A strong coastal power was the Sidis of Janjira, who were African Muslims, while the Peshwa of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate for 26 years was the legendary military general Malik Ambar, an Ethiopian slave. Shivaji (and his father) were a part of the Adil Shahi rule of Bijapur. Even when he rebelled and carved out his own kingdom, he allied with them, the Qutb Shahis of Golconda and even the Mughals, and sometimes against Hindu kingdoms like the Nayaks of the Karnatic. Similarly, Sambhaji, too, allied with Muslim Sultanates against Hindu kings like Chikka Devaraja of Mysore.

*Chhaava*'s central narrative of Aurangzeb's evilness would be diluted of its shock value if the film showed that Sambhaji himself had rebelled against his father Shivaji and had briefly joined the same evil Aurangzeb! While *Chhaava*, unlike other propaganda films, does show aberrations in the 'good Hindus' narrative by showing some Hindu traitors, including in his own family, all the kohl-lined Muslims are universally bad.

In positing Aurangzeb's torture as exceptional, what *Chhaava*'s world elides is the brutal nature of the medieval world with daily wars. States, including the Marathas, were built through consolidation, as well as through the violent subjugation of Hindu (and Muslim) landed nobles (deshmukhs, jagirdars, etc.) who were constantly shifting allegiances between states for better material/symbolic benefits. Internecine conflict between family members, just like among the Mughals, was rife: Shivaji battled his half-brother Ekoji, and so did Sambhaji's son with other contenders. When the film shows the failed plot to poison Sambhaji on behalf of his half-brother Rajaram, where 20 key Maratha ministers and elites are executed, it only hints at the violence by the trampling of elephants. When Sambhaji's Marathas attack Goa, a Portuguese account (cited by historian Jadunath Sarkar) says, "up to now nowhere else in India has such barbarity been seen..." While such narratives have to be treated carefully, what it shows was that violence was pervasive, even if degrees varied.

**Ignoring caste**

Critically, *Chhaava*'s Hindu-Muslim binary glosses over caste. It was the lowest castes and the poor who faced the worst forms of oppression across Hindu and Muslim states. In the 1818 Battle of Koregaon, the East India Company forces, with the Dalit Mahars in it, defeated the Peshwa-led Maratha confederacy. It became a symbol of caste resistance for Ambedkar and the Dalits. The film is also ironical considering that the Maharashtra non-Brahman movement had contended for long that the demonisation of Sambhaji as weak, incompetent and morally deficient was perpetuated by Brahmin narratives. This was also repeated by Hindutva ideologues like Savarkar and Golwalkar. The film has led to new Maratha versus Brahmin sentiments.

The world of *Chhaava*, like many other propaganda history films, is governed by present-day predilections in which a majoritarian nationalism is rampant, with the national audience further reinforcing it. When history in cinema becomes merely a tool to evoke anger, disgust and hatred, it robs us from understanding history in all its complexity. When history textbooks are being rewritten, and when people read history mostly through WhatsApp forwards, films like *Chhaava* with their erasures portend a dangerous tendency.

*Nissim Mannathukkaren is with Dalhousie University, Canada and is on X @nmannathukkaren.*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

# International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8. A quiz on iconic women and their achievements

Franciszek Snarski

**QUESTION 1**

This event was started by a massive women-led protest on March 8, 1917 in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), Russia, and eventually led to the abdication of the Tsar. The date was later commemorated as International Women's Day. What is this event called?

**QUESTION 2**

This Indian social reformer and educationist co-founded the first school for girls in Pune along with her husband, working tirelessly for women's education. Who is she?

**QUESTION 3**

On this day in 1979, this West Asian country saw tens of thousands of women protest against newly imposed compulsory veiling laws. Which country was it?

**QUESTION 4**

This pioneering scientist, born in Poland, became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and remains the only person to have won Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields. Who is she?

**QUESTION 5**

This person, a Kenyan environmentalist and women's rights activist, became the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. She was the founder of the Green Belt Movement, which focused on tree planting, conservation, and women's empowerment. Who is she?

**Visual question:**

This Chinese writer was a leading figure in 20th century Chinese literature. She was known for her works exploring the struggles of women in a changing society. However, her activism led to persecution during a major political event. Name the person and the event.

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. Originally named Chen Gangsheng, this person took a more Western name after migrating to Australia. **Ans: Jackie Chan**

2. A revolutionary, a socialist and an advocate of Pan-Africanism, this person was born with the name Francis Nwia-Kofi Ngonloma. **Ans: Kwame Nkrumah**

3. The name Robert Zimmerman chose after being inspired by a Welsh poet. **Ans: Bob Dylan**

4. This Indian citizen was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. **Ans: Mother Teresa**

5. The pen name of Eric Arthur Blair. **Ans: George Orwell**

Visual: Name the religion and the famous name of this person. **Ans: Rastafarianism; Haile Selassie**

**Early Birds:** Tamal Biswas| Erfanally Oosmany| M. Suresh Kumar| Piyali Tuli| Sonali Das

*Franciszek Snarski is an intern with The Hindu.*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What is the difference between 'cut in' and 'cut up'?"

" 'Cut in' means to interrupt someone when he/she is speaking. When John was explaining how to make pedas, his wife cut in and said he was wrong. The speaker lost his temper when Ram cut in a couple of times. 'Cut up' means 'to be upset or angry about something. I was cut up when my boss said I was incompetent. Krishna thought he had done well in the examination. He was cut up when he was told that he had got a 'C' in his examination."

"Is it all right to say 'I gave him a nosecut'?"

" 'Nose-cut' in the sense of 'snub' is used in Tamil Nadu. It is a literal translation of a Tamil expression. It is not used in English, not yet! 'Nose-cry' is another expression which is used by Tamil speakers, not by the English. In Tamil. 'I gave him a nose-cut' means 'I snubbed him'."

"What is the meaning of 'Her remarks got up my nose'?"

"It means that her remarks annoyed you. 'To get up someone's nose' means 'to annoy someone'."

"What is the meaning of 'He walks with his nose in the air'"?

"It means he is very haughty. 'Walk with one's nose in the air' means 'very haughty'."

"What exactly is the meaning of 'negotiate'?"

" 'To negotiate' means 'to try to reach an agreement by discussion'. When you negotiate, you are worried whether you will succeed or not. You are not at ease. You are uncomfortable. This is what negotiate really means. It is from Latin 'neg', not and 'otium', 'ease', 'leisure'. Negotiators are ill at ease till the negotiations are over!"

*Published in The Hindu on September 12, 1995.*

## Word of the day

**Ostentatious:**
intended to attract notice and impress others; (of a display) tawdry or vulgar

Synonym: pretentious

Usage: *She was always smartly dressed but not in an ostentatious way.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ostentatiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌɒs.tɛn'teɪ.ʃəs/, /ˌɒs.tən'teɪ.ʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

# Understanding the Theme: "Accelerating Action"

The theme "Accelerating Action" carries a vital sense of urgency. It encapsulates the need to close gender gaps with increased momentum. Progress toward gender equality has historically been sluggish due to a myriad of factors, including deeply embedded systemic barriers, pervasive cultural biases, and ongoing economic challenges.

As a response, this year's theme advocates for several key areas of accelerated action:

**1. Faster Policy Changes:** Governments and institutions must prioritize the formulation and enforcement of policies that support gender equality. This includes laws that ensure equal pay, parental leave, and workplace protections.

**2. Economic Empowerment:** Promoting economic independence for women through access to financial resources, skills training, and support for women-owned businesses can create a strong foundation for gender equity.

**3. Leadership Representation:** Increasing the representation of women in leadership roles across all sectors is essential for fostering an inclusive environment that values diverse perspectives and experiences.

**4. Education and Digital Access:** Ensuring that women and girls have access to quality education and digital resources is crucial for their personal and professional development. This includes promoting STEM education and digital literacy for young women, which are vital in navigating an increasingly tech-driven world.

**5. Ending Gender-Based Violence:** A critical component of achieving gender equality involves the urgent need to address and eradicate gender-based violence.

This includes implementing robust laws and support systems for survivors. By embracing the theme of "Accelerating Action," International Women's Day 2025 advocates for a world where women do not have to wait decades to see meaningful and impactful change.

**The Urgency for Immediate Action**

According to reports from UN Women, the current pace of progress suggests that full gender equality could take an alarming additional 130 years. Various recent global events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturns, and rising conflicts, have exacerbated existing gender disparities, leaving women vulnerable and disadvantaged. The urgency to act has never been greater. If society does not significantly hasten its efforts, millions of women will continue to be ensnared in cycles of poverty, inequality, and violence.

**Actions needed include:** Policy Enactment and Enforcement: Governments must not only draft gender-equitable policies but also ensure that they are rigorously enforced.

**Business Initiatives:** Enterprises must close existing gender gaps by fostering equitable work environments that promote diversity and inclusion, ensuring women have equal opportunities for advancement.

**Community Advocacy:** Individuals are encouraged to become vocal advocates for change within their communities, challenging the status quo and supporting initiatives that promote gender equality.

By accelerating action in these areas, we can create an environment where the next generation of women and girls do not inherit the same struggles that women face today.

International Women's Day 2025, themed "Accelerating Action," serves as a crucial wake-up call for the global community towards gender equality.

This moment calls for impactful changes that can reshape the lives of women and girls around the world. As we approach this important day, we must all reflect on our roles in driving change and commit to taking tangible actions toward a future where gender equality is not just an aspiration, but a reality. Together, through collaborative efforts and a shared commitment to change, we can create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

**Haarshini Agarwal**

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**No takers:** Out of the total 104 seats available in the MD anatomy course, only six seats have been filled. But, almost all the seats in clinical courses, like general medicine, radiotherapy, and dermatology, have been filled. GETTY IMAGES

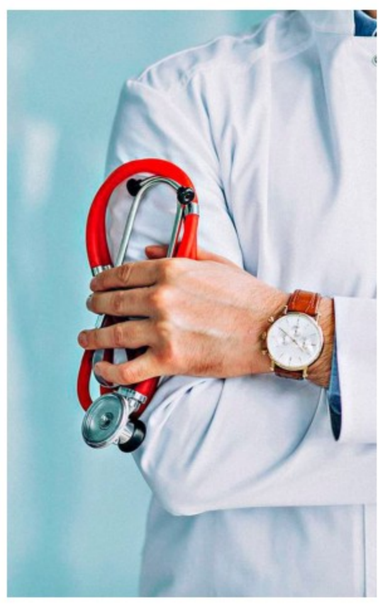
# What ails pre-clinical PG courses

A large number of postgraduate medical seats remain vacant this year due to the lack of students coming for pre-clinical courses. **Jayanth R.** explores the reason behind it

There were zero admissions for the postgraduate (PG) medical pre-clinical courses in Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre (VIMS), Bengaluru, including in anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, forensic medicine, microbiology and pharmacology, till the second round of PG-NEET counselling.

The institute then informed the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), the counselling authority in the State, that it would waive the tuition fees of candidates opting for these courses, after which, all the pharmacology seats were filled during the subsequent round of counselling, said Kalpaja D.A., Chairperson of the institute.

This is the situation of PG medical pre-clinical courses in Karnataka, as candidates are hesitant to take them up due to a lack of job opportunities. Even in government medical colleges, only 15% to 20% of the seats in these courses are filled. The situation is far worse in private medical colleges, which have resorted to fee reduction, free hostel facility, stipend as per government guidelines, and job guarantee with good salary as promises to attract students towards pre-clinical and para-clinical courses.



Like VIMS, Oxford Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre has also waived the tuition fees, while BGS Institute of Medical Sciences has promised jobs to candidates immediately after completing the courses.

"For PG medical courses, students like to join clinical courses due to job prospects. As a result, despite measures such as fee reduction, free hostel facility and stipend, the enrollment has been poor. It is very difficult to find candidates for courses like anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, forensic medicine, and microbiology. Therefore, many seats in PG medical courses have remained vacant this year as well. The KEA has announced it will conduct a special stray vacancy round for the second time. We hope all the vacant seats will be filled," Kalpaja explained.

"This time, several private medical colleges have announced many facilities, including fee reduction and free hostel facility and others to attract students towards pre-clinical and para-clinical courses. There is no other way to attract students," said M.K. Ramesh, former Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

## Extent of vacancies

A large number of postgraduate medical seats remained vacant in the State this year due to the lack of students opting for pre-clinical courses. A total of 3,864 postgraduate medical seats were available in the State for 2024-25. Out of these, 3,379 seats have been filled, and 485 seats remain vacant. Out of these, 471 are PG medical courses, while the remaining 14 are Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses for in-service doctors.

Among these, most of the seats filled are in clinical courses, while most of the vacant seats are in pre-clinical courses.

> If a job guarantee is given, students will be attracted towards these courses.
> Paramesh
> parent

PGET medical intake

| Course | 2022-23 Intake | 2022-23 Allotted | 2022-23 Vacant | 2023-24 Intake | 2023-24 Allotted | 2023-24 Vacant | 2024-25 Intake | 2024-25 Allotted | 2024-25 Vacant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MD Anatomy | 89 | 1 | 88 | 92 | 2 | 90 | 104 | 6 | 98 |
| Physiology | 86 | 0 | 86 | 88 | 12 | 76 | 97 | 10 | 87 |
| Biochemistry | 85 | 2 | 83 | 90 | 7 | 83 | 99 | 12 | 87 |
| Pharmacology | 105 | 20 | 85 | 101 | 29 | 72 | 114 | 46 | 68 |
| Microbiology | 98 | 8 | 90 | 102 | 15 | 87 | 116 | 48 | 68 |
| Forensic medicine | 53 | 2 | 51 | 55 | 22 | 33 | 58 | 10 | 48 |

Out of the total 104 seats available in the MD anatomy course this year, only six seats have been filled, leaving 98 seats vacant; of the 97 seats in the physiology, 10 have been filled, leaving 87 vacant. Out of the 99 biochemistry slots, 12 seats have been filled, and 87 remain vacant. Out of the 114 seats in pharmacology, only 46 seats have been filled, leaving 68 seats vacant.

Further, out of the 116 seats in microbiology, 48 have been filled, and 68 are vacant, and of 58 seats in forensic medicine, only 10 have been filled and 48 remain vacant.

On the other hand, almost all the seats in other clinical courses, including MD general medicine, radiotherapy, dermatology, psychiatry, and general surgeon, have been filled.

The statistics of the KEA show students have been showing apathy towards clinical courses even in the past. In 2023-24, only two students were enrolled in the MD anatomy course across the State. There were 12 students enrolled in physiology, 7 in biochemistry, 29 in pharmacology, 15 in microbiology, and 22 in forensic medicine.

In 2022-23, only one student was enrolled in MD anatomy, and no student enrolled in physiology, leaving all the seats vacant. Only two students were enrolled in biochemistry, 20 in pharmacology, 8 in microbiology, and two in forensic medicine.

## Counselling for the fifth time

KEA is the counselling authority to fill the PG medical seats of the State on the basis of PG-NEET ranking. This year, a large number of PG medical seats, including clinical, pre-clinical and para-clinical, remained vacant in Karnataka and the country after the mop-up round.

Therefore, the NMC reduced the PG-NEET cut-off percentage to 15% and allotted seats in the stray vacancy round. However, in this round too, more than 600 PG medical seats remained vacant in Karnataka. In this context, the NMC has again reduced the NEET cut-off percentage to 5% and has ordered to conduct the 'Special Stay Vacancy Round' counselling for the fifth time to allocate the remaining PG medical seats.

"This year, the pre-clinical seats are the largest number of unfilled seats among PG medical courses, and the NMC has reduced the PG-NEET cut-off percentage and has asked us to conduct another round of counselling to allocate the seats. It has been four months since the PG-NEET counselling started, and now the NMC has reduced the cut-off percentage to 5%. Earlier, the NMC had reduced the cut-off percentage to zero. If the PG-NEET cut-off percentage had been reduced to 5% earlier, it would have been more beneficial for the candidates, and more people would have opted for the courses. As soon as the NMC admission schedule is released, we will start option entry and allocate all these seats," said Prasanna H., Executive Director of KEA.

## The reason behind

But will this be enough? "I have decided to study clinical courses in PG. I did not get any clinical course seat in the last four rounds of counselling due to my PG-NEET ranking. Recently, the cut-off percentage for the special stray vacancy round has been reduced to 5%. So, there is a possibility of getting a seat. If I do not get a PG clinical course seat this time, I will write the PG-NEET exam next year as well," said Abhijit, a PG medical seat aspirant from Bengaluru.

Experts believe that candidates who have completed MBBS are hesitant to pursue pre-clinical courses in their postgraduate degrees due to a lack of future opportunities.

Students who have pursued these courses cannot do clinical practice. Instead, they will have to work in laboratories or diagnostic centres. However, laboratories and diagnostic centres are few in number, due to which there is a scarcity of jobs. On top of it, the salaries are also low, experts said, adding that huge capital is required to start diagnostic centres. The other option is to work as a faculty member. Meanwhile, candidates who have done clinical courses can work as doctors anywhere in the world.

## Shortage of faculty

Pre-clinical courses such as anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, forensic medicine, and microbiology are the foundation for medical courses. But experts pointed out that due to the lack of students, there will be a shortage of teaching faculty to teach these courses in the future, which will also affect medical education.

"Students' disinterest in pre-clinical courses will be the main reason for the shortage of faculty for these courses in the future. We have already heard that there is a shortage of faculty to teach pre-clinical courses in many states. There has been no discussion on this at the government level so far. However, this is a serious issue, and its pros and cons will be discussed at the government level," said B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka.

## Making them attractive

There is also a growing demand from stakeholders to make these courses more attractive with job availability, better wages and advanced technology.

"Clinical courses are not available to all candidates who have appeared for the PG-NEET exam. Instead, a large number of pre-clinical courses are remaining vacant every year. If a job guarantee is given, students will be attracted towards these courses. Candidates of pre-clinical courses who are self-employed lack the basic capital to implement high technology. If the government helps in implementing advanced technology at a low cost, there will be more demand for these courses," said Paramesh Doddamani, a parent.

"We have good salaries for doctors who have studied clinical courses. However, the salaries of those who have studied pre-clinical are low. Therefore, good salaries should be available to those who have studied these courses. In addition, the number of diagnostic centers should also increase. I hope that this will be achieved in the coming days," said Kalpaja of VIMS.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said: "This is a cycle. Everyone loves clinical courses. This is a job market-driven issue, and only time can answer this. So, there may be a good demand for pre-clinical courses in the coming days. If the number of staff in these courses falls in the medical colleges, the demand for candidates for these courses will increase. There may be demand for these courses in the next couple of years."

Pre-clinical courses such as biochemistry and microbiology are the foundation of medical courses. FILE PHOTO

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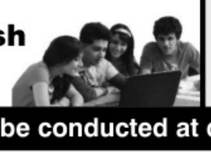

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21. **Shivamogga Regional Centre:** Alkola Circle, Near LIC Office, Sagara Road, Shivamogga-577 201, Phone: 08182-250367, Mobile: 91644 67131.
22. **Tumakuru Regional Centre:** CA-07, TUDA Layout, Rajiv Gandhi Nagara, Melekote, Gangasandra Main Road, Tumakuru-572 105, Phone: 0816-2955580, Mobile: 98445 06629.
23. **Udupi Regional Centre:** Old Zilla Panchayath Building, 2nd Floor, Bannanje, Udupi-576 101, Phone: 0820 - 2522247, Mobile: 99725 26647.
24. **Bidar-1 Regional Centre:** Government First Grade College, **Naubad,** Bidar-585 402, Phone: 08482-232020, Mobile: 99866 96487.
25. **Bidar-2 Regional Centre:** Karnataka Public School, **Gorata (B) Grama,** Halsoor Tq. Bidar-585 327, Mobile: 99866 96487.
26. **Bagalkote Regional Centre:** BVVS Jana Shikshana Samsthe Campus, besides Basaveshwara Independent PU College, Vidyagiri, Bagalkote-587 103, Mobile: 70222 22241/ 88610 40975.
27. **Madikeri Regional Centre:** Junior College Campus, Field Marshal Kariappa, Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, Madikeri - 571 201, Mobile: 80733 42310 / 91419 38803.
28. **Kollegala Regional Centre :** Haricharan Arcade, 2nd Floor, South Extn. opp. Mahadeshwara Kalyana Mantap, Kollegala-571440, Mobile: 99807 40048.
29. **Chitradurga Regional Centre:** Don Bosco Degree College, near BCM Hostel, Shanimahatma Temple Road, Challakere Road, Chitradurga-577501. Mobile: 74066 12788.
30. **Haveri Regional Centre:** Shri Shivalingeshwara Vidyapeeta, Hukkerimata, Haveri-581110. Mobile: 97432 76734.
31. **Chikkaballapura Regional Centre:** Government First Grade (Muncipal) College, M.G. Road, Chikkaballapura-562101. Mobile: 91643 00299.
32. **Raichur Regional Centre:** Government First Grade College, Nijalingappa Colony, near Valmiki Circle, Lingasagur Road, Raichur-584101. Mobile: 96866 19555.
33. **Yadagiri Regional Centre:** Government Degree College, Chittapura Road, Yadgiri-585202 Mobile: 98800 61361.
34. **Vijayapura Regional Centre :** VSG Arts and Commerce College Campus, No.680/E Opp. to **Akashavani Kendra, Ring Road, Vijayapura-586 103.** Mobile: 94836 28267.
35. **Koppala Regional Centre : Urban Development Authority Office,** Office Building 1st Floor, Opp. Govanakoppa Hospital, Hospet Road, Koppala-583 231. Mobile: 90085 88675 / 87225 88675.
36. **Gadag Regional Centre :** Dr. Pandit Puttarajagawaiah's I.T.I. College, LL Building (Old DC Office Circle), General Kariappa Circle, Gadag-582101. Mobile: 86189 29376 / 88842 31002.
37. **Vijayanagara (Hosapete) Regional Centre :** Kannada University, Vidyaranya, Hampi, Vijayanagara Dist.-583 276, Mobile: 99451 71920.
38. **Periyapatna Regional Centre :** D.P.B.S. Govt. PU College for Boys Campus (High School Section), B.M. Road, Near Bettadapura Circle, Periyapatna Tq. - 571107. Mobile: 99014 23273.

**Admission opens from: 10.02.2025**

**Last Date for Admission : 31.03.2025**

**Exams and Classes will be conducted at different Regional Centre / Learning Support Centre**

**Sd/-, Registrar**

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## CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S.Shivakumara Swamy,**
S/o. Sri. S.Siddappa, aged about 53 years, residing at No.499, 10th Main, M.C.Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore – 560 040,
have changed my minor Son's name from **CHIRAG.K ALIAS CHETHAN.K to CHETHAN KUMAR.S,**
with effect from 05.03.2025 in my capacity as Father and as per the wishes of myself my family members and also my family customs and traditions vide Affidavit dated:05.03.2025 before Notary and Advocate H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, Vijayanagar, Bangalore.

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## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No.: Prov_NDV_Addl Loopline_Rd1 Dated: 27.02.2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

| Item of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| South Western Railway, Bengaluru Division: Provision of 01 additional loop line on Road-1 side at Nidavanda (NDV) station of Bangalore Division. | Rs. 3,59,96,461.63 |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 21.03.2025**

**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ PUB/819/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Bengaluru

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-Tender Notice No.: 06/MYS/2025 Dated: 27.02.2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

| Sl.# | Item of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chikjajur - Karajagi (JRU-KJG) Section: Improvements to cess. | Rs. 2,26,00,441/- |
| 2 | Arsikere: Unloading, Leading and Stacking of P.Way Materials at P.Way Depot (Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Depot / Arsikere) for a period of Two Years. | Rs. 18,83,620/- |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 21.03.2025**

**For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ PUB/817/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Mysuru

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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## EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LTD

Corporate Office, P&T Colony, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam-530 013.

**Tender Notice No. CGM/EC&Solar/02/2024-25, Dt.07.03.2025**

Bids through **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders for development of 244.11 MWp grid connected solar power plants for solarization of 50,219 Nos pump sets in jurisdiction of APEPDCL under Feeder Level Solarization (FLS) of Component C of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM). All the interested bidders may visit **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** to view details of the tender and time schedule of the above works.

**Ph : 9441155166** Advt-77 **Chief General Manager/EC & Solar Energy**

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## FORM A
## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
**ELBIT PLAZA INDIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON | **ELBIT PLAZA INDIA MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED** |
| 2 | DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON | **25/06/2007** |
| 3 | AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED | **ROC-Bangalore** |
| 4 | CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON | **U74140KA2007PTC051656** |
| 5 | ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON | **No.2620 (Old #. 101/A), 26th Main, 38th Cross, Jayanagar 9th Block, 560069, Jayanagar West, Bangalore, Bangalore South, Karnataka, India, 560070** |
| 6 | LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON | **03.03.2025** |
| 7 | NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity | **CS THIRUPAL GORIGE NO. 87, 2ND FLOOR, 21ST CROSS, 7TH MAIN, N S. PALYA, BTM 2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA CELL +91 94483 84064, LL +080 7963 4233 EMAIL: GTHIRUPAL@GMAIL.COM IP REG. NO. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid up to 21/05/2024** |
| 8 | LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS | **02.04.2025** |

Notice is hereby given that **Elbit Plaza India Management Services Private Limited** has commenced voluntary liquidation on **03.03.2025.**

The stakeholders of **Elbit Plaza India Management Services Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before **02.04.2025** to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

**Sd/-**
**Thirupal Gorige**
**Liquidator**

**Date : 06/03/2025**
**Place : Bangalore**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Sri. B.L Kariyappa,** S/o, Sri. Ganelingegowda@Lingappa, aged about 59 years, residing at No. #103, R Lane Car Police Quarters, Bangalore 560018 who is the absolute owner of Site bearing No. 2148, formed by BDA Bangalore in 4th 'H' Block, Banashankari 6th stage, Banashankari (Vrushabhavathinagar), Bangalore, measuring East to West 6 Mtrs., North to South 9 Mtrs., totally measuring 54 Sq. Mtrs., has lost the **Original Allotment Letter issued by BDA, dated 03-02-2004, Sale deed dated 05-07-2008 vide document No.BDA-1-01343/2008-09, stored in CD No.BDA142 registered in the office of Sub-registrar BDA executed by BDA in favour of Smt. Bhagya and Possession Certificate dated 19-02-2009 executed by BDA in the name of Smt. Bhagya.** He had also lodged a complaint in this regard before the Bangalore City Police on 25-02-2025. Inspite of the best efforts same could not be traced.

Therefore it is requested that the general public who ever may find the said original sale deed, allotment letter and possession certificate or person in possession of the said original documents to hand over the same to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of this publication.

**Smt. Shrilata Hegde, Advocate**
C-203, Goodearth Terraces, Kumbalagodu
Bangalore - 560074.
Mob : 9481119935.
Bangalore/Dated : 07-03-2025.

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## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 3ನೇ ಮತ್ತು 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560009.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಗೃಮಂ/ಕಾ/ಹಂಚಿಕೆ/ಮೈಸೂರು/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–03–2025

### ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿಯು ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಜಯಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಕೆಂಚಲಗೂಡು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಂಪು ಮನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿರುವ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ "ಹೆರಿಟೇಜ್ ಹೈಟ್ಸ್" ವಸತಿ ಸಮುಚ್ಚಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ **2BHK** ಮತ್ತು **3BHK** ಫ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಡಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಂದ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಇರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ದಿನಾಂಕ:**07–03–2025** ರಿಂದ ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿಯನ್ನು **e-payment** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ **(Online Application)** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**02–04–2025.**

ನೊಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ/ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

| ವರ್ಗ | ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಗಳು | ಫ್ಲಾಟ್‌ನ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಅಂದಾಜು ಸೂಪರ್ ಬಿಲ್ಟಪ್ ಏರಿಯಾ) | ನೊಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಪ್ರತಿ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್‌ನ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಬೆಲೆ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಫ್ಲಾಟ್‌ನ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಬೆಲೆ (ಚದುರ ಅಡಿ, ಚದುರ ಮೀಟರ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 BHK | 160 | 76.90 ಚ.ಮೀ. | 1000/– | 2,00,000/– | 49.46 | ಪ್ರತಿ ಚದರ ಮೀಟರ್‌ಗೆ ರೂ. 64,314.80/– (ರೂ. 5975/– ಪ್ರತಿ ಚದರಡಿಗೆ) |
| 3 BHK | 32 | 98.09 ಚ.ಮೀ. | 1500/– | 3,00,000/– | 63.09 | |

ವಸತಿ ಸಮುಚ್ಚಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುವ ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು

1. ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಹೌಸ್, ಪಾರ್ಟಿ ಹಾಲ್, ಜಿಮ್, ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ, 2. ಒಳಾಂಗಣ ಕ್ರೀಡೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ/ಕಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕಿಂಗ್/ಹೊರಾಂಗಣ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, 3. ಈಜು ಕೊಳ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನ, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ, ಕಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕಿಂಗ್, 4. ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ, 24/7 ಭದ್ರತಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ

ನೊಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿ ಹಣ **e-payment** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://www.khb.karnataka.gov.in** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9845500289,** ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**9916091128,** ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**7026164243,** ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಮನ್ವಯ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9886344619** ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ರವರ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080–22273511 ext.309,310** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

**DIPR/CP/5407/Zen/2024-25**

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## यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

A Government of India Undertaking

**CHAMRAJPET BRANCH**
No 97, Mahaveer Arcade, Sirsi Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore- 560018
Contact No: 8369269210; Mail ID: ubin0569216@unionbankofindia.bank

### DEMAND NOTICE

**The Borrower/s: Mr. Srinivas C V,** No. 79, PID No. 37-40-79, Khatha No 63, VIP Khatha No 453/678, 3rd "A" Cross Road, SVG Nagar, Malagala Village, Moodalapalya, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru - 560079.

Notice dt. 01.03.2025 issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Chamrajpet Branch/me, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account/s with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper.

The credit facilities/loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA on 28.02.2025.

You have executed loan documents while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the Bank. The details the credit Facilities and secured assets are as under:

Credit facilities availed with outstanding amount as on **01.03.2025** is **Rs.72,80,553.29** (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Twenty Nine Only) Total outstanding amount **Rs.72,80,553.29** (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Twenty Nine Only)

**SECURED ASSETS**
**(Description of Immovable property)**

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No 79, PID No. 37-40-79, Khatha No 63, (Old VIP Khatha No. 453/678, situated at Malagala Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently come under the BBMP Bangalore Ward No. 37, Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet Totally measuring 1200 sq ft and Three storied residential building measuring total built up are of 2632.51 sf ft and bounded on the: **East By:** Property belongs to Original Owner; **West By:** Property belongs to Saraswathamma; **North By:** Property belongs to Narayanappa; **South By:** Road.

Therefore, you, No.1, as borrower and you in terms of the aforesaid sum of **Rs.72,80,553.29** (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Twenty Nine Only) together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the secured assets aforesaid from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Date: 07.03.2025** **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
**Place: Bangalore** **Union Bank of India**

(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)

## SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU.

No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/WORKSTN/31/2024-25, Date: 04.03.2025

### Tender Notification

e-Tenders are invited from interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for Supply & Installation of Advance Anesthesia Work Station For Anesthesia Division of SABVMCRI.

**1)** The starting date for downloading tender : **06.03.2025** onwards. **2)** The last date for clarifications on tender : **11.03.2025, upto 5.30 P M. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting :**10.03.2025 at 11.30 am. 4)** The last date for uploading the tender : **20.03.2025 upto 5.30 P M. 4)** Opening of Technical bid : **24.03.2025 at 11.30 A M.**

For more details pertaining to this tender, contact the Director and Dean/ Assistant Administrator of the Institute during office hours.

**Sd/- Director and Dean, SABVMCRI Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/5505/Zen/2024-25

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## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of Executive Engineer, Projects Division, Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru-560036

No.:BBMP/EE(P)/Tend/05/2024-25 Date:06.03.2025

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Project Division) Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP, invites tenders from the eligible Tenderers/ Manpower service providers registered in to any state Govt. Organization for the services mentioned in the table below.

| Sl.No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Providing Data Entry Operators/Computer Operators for offices at Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP. **Amount Put to tender: Rs 132.55 lakhs. EMD: Rs. 2.00 lakhs.** |

**1)** Date of Commencement of downloading the documents from KPP portal: **10.03.2025 onwards. 2)** Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting: **14.03.2025 at 11:30 am. 3)** Last date and time for uploading the tenders in KPP Portal: **20.03.2025 upto 5:00 pm. 4)** Date & time of Opening of Technical Bids: **24.03.2025 at 4:30 pm,** if possible or next working day.

Further details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**Project Division, Mahadevapura Zone.**

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## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ENERGY DEPARTMENT

**Invitation of application for the post of Director (Projects) in Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC)**

Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC Ltd.) functioning under the administrative control of Energy Department, Government of Odisha, is an ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified Gold rated State Public Sector Undertaking with installed capacity of 2099.8 MW at six locations within the State and one inter-State project. OHPC is also promoting investment in various green energy projects through GEDCOL (a wholly owned subsidiary of OHPC). The Company is also planning to take up new hydro projects & Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) in the coming days.

The Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **Director (Projects)** for Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC).

The pay will be Cost to Company (CTC) pattern and shall be in line with the industry. Performance based service conditions and Market Based Salary (MBS) structure shall be offered, wherein the CTC ranges between Rs.35 lakhs to Rs.70 lakhs per annum.

Over and above this, the post carries additional facilities like official vehicle, Company accommodation/HRA, Medical facilities, broadband & telephone facilities, etc as per the rules of the Corporation. The Pay protection will be allowed only to the Officers from the Central/ State Governments/CPSEs/ State PSUs or any other Government Organization.

This position is on full time contract basis for a period of 05 (five) years or the age of 63 years, whichever is earlier. This position is at the Board level and the incumbent shall report to the Managing Director / Chairman/CMD of OHPC.

Detailed requirement for the position along with the application format is available in the Energy Department, Government of Odisha website **https://energy.odisha.gov.in**

Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Principal Secretary to Govt., Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/ Registered Post only to reach by 30.04.2025. Envelope containing the application should be super-scribed as **"Application for the post of Director (Projects), Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd (OHPC)".**

**Principal Secretary to Govt.**
**Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan,**
**Bhubaneswar-751001**

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

## ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
www:eepwdmys21@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ: 0821–2420810

ಕಛೇರಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: 25/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2025 & ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 27/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಅ) ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಆ)ನಂ.2 ವಿಶೇಷ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮೈಸೂರು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ **ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 4ರ** ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ **3ನೇ** ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: 25/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:03.03.2025 **ರಿಂದ 20.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ** ವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 27/2024–25 ಯಲ್ಲಿನ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:**06.03.2025 ರಿಂದ 25.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ** ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.175** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ **ರೂ. 2,18,654/–ಗಳು ಮತ್ತು** ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.402.92** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ **ರೂ.6,04,387**ಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **ಸಂ:25/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿ: 03.03.2025**ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–01 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ **ದಿ:07.03.2025** ರಂದು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **27/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2025** ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 13.03.2025** ರಂದು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಕ್ಕೆ** ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

**ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,**
**ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.**

DIPR/DDMYS/1402/KSMCA/1028/2024-25

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**Government of Karnataka**
**(Infrastructure Development and Port and Inland Water Transport Department)**
**Karnataka Maritime Board**
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PORT DIVISION, BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302**
**Phone: 08382-229672 Email: eepdk@rediffmail.com / eepdkwr4@gmail.com**

NO.EE/PDK/TND/2024-25/763 Date: 04-03-2025

### TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only in KPPP Portal) (Two Cover System)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in KPPP Portal to execute below mentioned Work. To participate in KPPP Portal, and for more information may be obtained in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

**"GST shall be paid to the Tendered Amount separately"**

**Name of work and Indent Number**: (1) CONSTRUCTION OF DIAPHRAGM WALL BEHIND COLLAPSED CONCRETE PLATFORM AT TENGINAGUNDI IN BHATKAL TALUK OF UTTARA KANNADA DIST. Indent no: **IDD/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT121**, Amount put to Tender **Rs. 6,05,43,580.00,** Last date and Time for queries: **03-04-2025 at 16.00 hours,** Last date and Time for receipt of Tender: **04-04-2025 at 16.30 hours**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Port Division, Karwar**

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/946/24-25 Dt.05.03.25

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**Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com**

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2024-25/675
Dated: 05.03.2025

### INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-1 and KW-3 on KPP portal for 6 no of works pertaining to Raichur & Koppal district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from min Rs.13.92 to max Rs.72.00 Lakhs. The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through KPP portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website http:// https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after 07-03-2025. Last date & time for receipt of tender is 15-03-2025 time 16.30 hours, pre bid meeting will be held on 13-03-2025time 11.00 hours at this office, date & time for opening of technical bid 17-03-2025 time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid 19-03-2025 time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

**Sd/-Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.**

**DIPR/Koppal/826/KSMCA/2024-25**

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## URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI

Beside Mini Vidhan Soudha, Station Main road, Kalaburagi-585102
Email:commissionergda@gmail.com

No. KUDA/MSK/Commercial plots/E-Auction/1/2024-25
Date: 04-03-2025

### MSK MILL COMMERCIAL LAYOUT

**(Near Central Bus Stand Commercial plots E-Auction Notification)**

Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority has been called E-Auction of commercial sites beside central bus stand in MSK Mill Commercial layout, with well developed CC Road, constructed Drain, well parking facilities for vehicles and footpath etc. and also Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority has planned a new and specialized vegetable market complex with modern amenities in the layout. Therefore it is informed to all to participate in the E-auction and take benefit of the auction.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | Last Date and time to pay Processing Fee and EMD to participate in E-Auction | : | **Starting Date: 10-03-2025 to 21-03-2025 to 5.30 P.M.** |
| 2) | Last Date and Time for E-Auction Bidding | : | **Closing Date: 26-03-2025 to 5.30 P.M. (Delta Time 5.00 Minutes)** |

| Deposition of EMD Amount to Participate in E-Auction | | Minimum Bid changing Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1163.00 Sq Ft above Plots | 2,00,000/- | Rs. 25,000/- |
| 1162.50 Sq Ft and Below Plots | 1,00,000/- | |

| SL. No. | Plot No. | Area in Sq. Fts | Rate Per Sq. Ft | Total Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 10075 | 5600/- | 5,64,20,000/- |
| 2 | 17 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 3 | 18 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 4 | 79 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 5 | 94 | 3390 | 5600/- | 1,89,84,000/- |
| 6 | 95 | 3390 | 5600/- | 1,89,84,000/- |
| 7 | 96 | 3390 | 5600/- | 1,89,84,000/- |
| 8 | 97 | 3390 | 5600/- | 1,89,84,000/- |
| 9 | 98 | 3390 | 5600/- | 1,89,84,000/- |
| 10 | 108 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 11 | 109 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 12 | 116 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 13 | 117 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 14 | 118 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 15 | 119 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 16 | 120 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 17 | 126 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 18 | 127 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 19 | 131 | 42771.00 | 5600/- | 23,95,25,000/- |
| 20 | 137 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 21 | 138 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 22 | 139 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 23 | 140 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 24 | 141 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 25 | 142 | 1666.26 | 5600/- | 93,32,000/- |
| 26 | 143 | 1478.97 | 5600/- | 82,83,000/- |
| 27 | 144 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 28 | 145 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 29 | 146 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 30 | 147 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 31 | 148 | 1162.50 | 5600/- | 65,10,000/- |
| 32 | 149 | 1097.92 | 5600/- | 61,49,000/- |

**Terms and condition for E-Auction mentioned below :**

Terms and conditions and further extra information is available in the Website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Department : Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority and any other details can be sought from the KUDA Kalaburagi office, during the office hours.

**Sd/- Commissioner Urban Development Authority, Kalaburagi**

**Sd/- Chairman Urban Development Authority, Kalaburagi**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1044/KSMC&A/2024-25

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is given on behalf of my client, Mr. L.N. Narayanaswamy Urf L.Narayanaswamy, S/o. Narayanappa. He is the sole and absolute owner of the land bearing Sy. No.66 measuring 3 Acres 16 guntas, situated at ILTHORE Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. My client wishes to inform the general public that he has lost the original Mortgage deed registered as doc. No. 119/1955-1956 dtd.18.04.1955 and the original Rectification deed registered as doc. No.3016/1969-70 dtd.26.12.1969. If anyone finds these documents, please return them to the office of the undersigned Advocate.

**SARITHA, Advocate,**
LEGAL LANDMARK,No.301, Third Floor, SMART PLAZA, Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005.

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**IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE IX ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE** (CCH-5)
**P & SC No. 438 of 2024**

**1. Mrs. Patricia Ann Jeyasingh**
Wife of Late Mr. Perinbanayagam Daniel Jeyasingh, Aged about 81 years, Residing at No. 419, Jal Vayu Vihar, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560043

**2. Mr. Arun Nayagam Jeyasingh**
Son of Late Mr. Perinbanayagam Daniel Jeyasingh, Aged about 48 years, Residing at Flat No. 303, 3rd Floor, Fortune Almash Apartment, No.49, D'Costa Square, 1st Cross, Cooke Town, Bengaluru- 560084

**Represented by his Special Power of Attorney holder Ms. Natasha Chellam Jeyasingh**

**3. Ms. Natasha Chellam Jeyasingh**
Daughter of Mr. Perinbanayagam Daniel Jeyasingh, Aged about 44 years, Residing at No.419, Jal Vayu Vihar, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560043 : **PETITIONERS**
**AND** : NIL : **RESPONDENT**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named Petitioners have filed this petition under Section 278 of the Indian Succession Act for the grant of Letter of Administration in favour of the Petitioners, in respect of Schedule properties mentioned below. The below mentioned Schedule properties was held by Late Mr. Perinbanayagam Daniel Jeyasingh who is the husband of Petitioner No. 1 and the father of Petitioner No. 2 and 3 herein, who expired on October 18, 2018. Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **09.04.2025 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners, failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTIES**

**ITEM No. 1 :**
All that piece and parcel of the residential Flat No. 419, on the 1st Floor of the multi storied Apartment known as Jal Vayu Vihar, BDA Layout measuring super built up area of 120.92 sq. meters inclusive of 13.99 sq. meters Garage and undivided share of 64.97 sq. meters, situated at Kammanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560043 with PID No. 395-419 and bounded as follows:
East By : Restricted Common Area (Drive way);
West By : Unrestricted Common Area;
North By : Apartment No. 418;
South By : Unrestricted Common Area.

**ITEM No. II :**
All that piece and parcel of the residential Site in New Survey No. 372/7 and old Survey No. 1974, measuring 3 cents and 400 square links, situated at Thamaraikulam Village, Kottaram Sub District, Agasthisuvaram Taluk, Kanyakumari Registration District, and bounded as follows:
East by : Narayanaswamy Temple site;
West by : Draviya Pandian Site;
North by : N. J. Ponnaiah Site;
South by : Moses site

**ITEM No. III**
All that piece and parcel of the residential Site in New Survey No. 372/5 and old Survey No. 1974, measuring 7.5 cents, situated at Thamaraikulam Village, Agasthisuvaram Taluk, Kottaram Sub District, Kanyakumari Registration District, and bounded as follows:
East by : Narayanaswamy Temple land;
West by : Your land of property;
North by : Samuel 1st son site;
South by : Devasagayam 1st son site and mission type site.

**ITEM No. IV**
All that piece and parcel of the residential Site in New Survey No. 371/2 and old Survey No. 1953, measuring 17 cents, situated at Thamaraikulam Village, Agasthisuvaram Taluk, Kottaram Sub District, Kanyakumari Registration District and bounded as follows:
East by : Channel & Road;
West by: Ramaperumal 1st son dry land;
North by :Selvamani land and other land;
South by : Selvamani Dry Land.

**ITEM No. V :**
All that piece and parcel of the residential Site in New Survey No. 372/6 and old Survey No. 1974, measuring 3 Cents and 400 square links, situated at Thamaraikulam Village, Agasthisuvaram Taluk, Kottaram Sub District, Kanyakumari Registration District, and bounded as follows:
East by : As Per Registration details;
West by : Ponnaiva property of Land,
North by : Audhilingam property of Land,
South by : Divya Pandian property of Land
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the 4th day of March, 2025 at Bangalore.

**By Order of the Court,**
**Sd/- Senior Seristedar**
City Civil Court, Bangalore

**Advocate for Complainant**
**LEX ASTRA PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATES**
Office at: High Point 3, Flat No. 3111, 11th Floor, 45 Palace Road, Bangalore- 560001 Ph No: 9845329685
E-mail id: ramesh.t.rt@gmail.com

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## UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Ph. No. : 0135-2762444, Fax : 0135-2763839
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGCO25867, E-mail ID: cgmupcl@yahoo.com, Website : www.upcl.org

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited invites e-tenders *(www.mstcecommerce.com)* for purchase of short term power for the period from **Apr-2025 to Jun-2025 (RTC)** as per Ministry of Power, Government of India guidelines dated 30-03-2016 and its amendment from time to time against Tender Specification **No. 23/CE (COMM)/UPCL-23/2025** as detailed below:-

| Month | Timings (RTC) | | Quantum of Power (MW) | Minimum Bid Quantity (MW) | Delivery Point |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | From | To | | | |
| Apr-25 | 00:00 | 24:00 | 420 | 20 | State Periphery |
| May-25 | 00:00 | 24:00 | 500 | 20 | |
| Jun-25 | 00:00 | 24:00 | 350 | 20 | |

The timelines for short term procurement/bid process and activities thereafter are as under:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Last Date of request for purchase of tender document | **12/03/2025 up to 12:00 hrs.** |
| Last date and time of submission of e-tender document | **12/03/2025 up to 14:00 hrs.** |
| Date and time of opening of tender document (Part-1) | **12/03/2025 at 16:00 hrs.** |
| Date and time of opening of Initial Price Offer (IPO) & e-Reverse Auction (e-RA) | **20-03-2025** |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Bank Guarantee should be in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun | Rs. 30,000/MW/month of offered capacity |
| Cost of tender Specification (Demand Draft in favour of) Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun | Rs. 29,500/-(Rs Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only) including taxes. |

The qualifying requirements for a bidder to bid for this tender are as follows:
1. The bidder must quote not less than 20 MW quantum of power from single source of generation.
2. The quantum of power offered by the bidder shall be firm power for the duration mentioned above.
3. The bidder must submit the details of Bidder Company as per Annexure 'A' of tender specification for consideration of their bid. Bidder shall ensure submission of (General/Technical/Financial information for last three years supported by unabridged Annual Financial Statements, assets and liabilities statements and other financial statements duly certified.)
4. If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of valid Category license or equivalent Trading License issued by CERC/Appropriate Commission.
5. If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of at least one number executed power purchase agreement or an equivalent arrangement for supply of power/Letter of intent.
6. The consultancy/Joint Venture firm deputed by UPCL as a consultant shall not be eligible for participating in aforesaid tender
7. The bidder has to submit a self declaration in Rs. 100/- non judicial stamp paper declaring that the bidder has cleared all his dues/liabilities and has no outstanding net financial liability/net dues towards UPCL on the last date of submission of bid.
8. Power will be scheduled under GNA. If GNA is not available, then power will be scheduled under T-GNA and charge of T-GNA will be borne by buyer. It is also being clarify the delivery point will remain same i.e. State periphery.
UPCL reserve the right to unilaterally reject the bid at any stage of the processing of the tender if any declaration submitted by the bidder is found false/incorrect/misrepresented.
The documents will be issued to the bidders only through e-tender i.e. ***(www.mstcecommerce.com).***

E-tenders will be received and opened on the dates as mentioned above. In case the above date is holiday, the tenders will be received & opened on the next working day at same time. The undersigned reserves the right to refuse to issue the tender documents to any applicant and also to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and no claim on this account shall be acceptable. **The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered.** Bid will be submitted on ***(www.mstcecommerce.com)*** only and hard copy of technical bid will also be submitted to the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document. For any assistance on E-tendering, please contact on telephone number 011-23217850.

No. 110/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dt.: 06-03-2025

**Superintending Engineer (Commercial)**

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use LED Bulb, Save Electricity. (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org". (For information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001804185 / Fax: 0135-2760911)

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## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

### PERSONAL

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, NEHA** Kolarkar, D/o Ravi Kolarkar, R/at No. 09, 2nd Cross, JSS School Road, Teachers Colony, Konanakunte, Bengaluru-560062, hereby state that my Father's both names Ravi Kolarkar and Ravi Kolarkar.G belongs to one & the same person, vide affidavit dated 04-03-2025 sworn before Notary Vani.G.K, Bengaluru.

### PERSONAL

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, RITU** Ujjwal spouse of Manoj Kumar presently R/at SMQ No.48/04, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063, have changed by name from Ritu Ujjwal to Ritu Arya vide affidavit dated 03/03/2025 sworn before Notary H.Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

### SITUATION VACANT

#### GENERAL

**Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)**
An initiative of the Govt. of Karnataka
**Career Opportunity**
**Call for Applicants**

**1.Cluster Manager:** Mangaluru, Hubli-Dharwad-Belgaum (HDB), Shivamogga & Kalaburagi: 8+ years of experience.
**Location:** Mangaluru, HDB, Shivamogga, Kalaburagi.
**Total Positions:** 1 per cluster.
**2.Associate- IT / GCC:** 2- 5 years of experience,
**Location:** Bengaluru
**3.Associate- Talent Accelerator:** 2-5 years of experience,
**Location:** Bengaluru
**4.Associate- ESDM:** 2-5 years of experience,
***Location***: Bengaluru

The detailed Job Description and application process are available at
**www.karnatakadigital.in/careers**

**The deadline for applications is 21st March 2025**

### LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS**
**MADURAI BENCH**

**Cont. P (MD) No.1482 of 2017**

J. Adel ...Petitioner

Vs.

1. S. Ramesh
2. S. Brathiba ...Respondents

To,
S.Brathibha
W/o.Mariappa Sairam,
Villa No.112, Akshaya Red Stone Community
Whitefield Main Road,
Seeghahalli,
Bengaluru-560 067 ...Respondent No. 2

Whereas statutory notice was ordered by the Hon'ble court on 3.1.2023 and again on 19.12.2024 to the respondents and the notice sent was returned unserved and whereas by order dated 24.1.2025 the Hon'ble court has ordered substituted service returnable on 28.3.2025

Now therefore take notice that the above matter will be posted for hearing before the Hon'ble court on 28.3.2025 when you may appear before this court either in person or through advocate in this behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance, as aforesaid and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

**Dated: 11th February 2025** **REGISTRAR**

### PERSONAL

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, YESU RAJ,** S/o Arokya Dass, aged about 39 years, residing at No.1206,23rd Cross, Old Bagaluru Layout, Sagayapuram, Bangalore-560084, have changed my father's name from **AROCKIANATHAN** to **AROKYA DASS** and my mother's name from **MARY MARGARET** to **RAMANI,** vide affidavit dt. 05/03/2025 before Notary **S.I.BALAGURU,** Bangalore.

### EXHIBITION / EVENTS FAIR

**Trade Fair** showcasing Kadamba, chalukya Portuguese, and British-era coins, banknotes, medals, tokens, and more. Get free valuation of gold and silver coins by experts. (Note: Modern Republic Indian coins are not included. No Entry for YouTubers) Dates: 7th to 9th March 2025. Time: 11:00 am to 7:30 pm. Venue: Kala Academy, Panaji, Goa. Entry Free. Don't miss this unique opportunity!

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

CIN: U92411TN1934NPL000349
Regd. Office: 63, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002
Phone: 044-28584353 Fax: 044-28414356
E-mail: cosmonetcentre@gmail.com
Website: www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com

**NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 29th March 2025 at 04:30 p.m. to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the EGM.

Notice dated 25.2.2025 was dispatched to all members by Registered Post /Courier on 7th March 2025.

The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Sec.108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/s Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K.M.Subheramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting and Manual Ballotting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 26.03.2025 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 28.03.2025 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5.00 PM on 28.03.2025,During this period, Members whose name appear in the Register of Members as on 09.03.2025 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process.

Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting can exercise their right to vote at the meeting. The facility for voting by manual ballot will be made available at the meeting venue.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43.

**/ By order of the Executive Committee /**
**Place: Chennai** **Sanjay Ramaswami**
**Date: 07.03.2025** **Honorary Secretary**

# Private hospital employee loses ₹2.8 lakh to online fraud

**The Hindu Bureau**
MANGALURU

An electrician of a private hospital in Manipal lost ₹2.8 lakh to fraudsters, who made him transfer money to receive a gift from abroad.

In the compliant to Udupi Town Police, the victim said he got a message from an unknown person on Instagram from the account 'reta_wat' in December 2024 and he started to interact with the person. The victim shared his postal address with this unknown person.

A few days later the victim started receiving calls asking him to transfer different amounts, towards customs and security clearance charges related to the parcel in victims' name.

## CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHAMARAJANAGARA

email add: itstaff_ulb_chamarajanagar@yahoo.co.in website add : www.chamarajanagaracity.mrc.gov.in

No:C.M.C/AEE/PRNO-61/2024-25 Date : 05-03-2025

**-: Tender Notification :-**

(Through The Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Under the Muncipal Fund a tender has been invited through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal as per the **Karnataka Standard Tender Document - KW2** (Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Directions 1999-2000 Act 2000). Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through the portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date for Submission of Tender (Through Kppp portal Only): **12-03-2025 Upto 5.30 PM,** Date of opening of Technical bid Dated: **14-03-2025 after 11.30 AM**

| Sl. No. | Work Indent No. | Estimated Amount in Lakhs | EMD Rupees |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36092/CALL-2 | 50.00 | 100000.00 |
| 02 | DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36093/CALL-2 | 50.00 | 100000.00 |
| 03 | DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36125/CALL-2 | 4.24 | 10600.00 |

**Sd/- President** CMC, Chamarajanagara | **Sd/- Vice President** CMC, Chamarajanagara | **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner** CMC, Chamarajanagara

DIPR:CHANAGAR:660:2024-25

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No: HC 441/PLS/Handling/ KBL/2024 Dated: 10.02.2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

| Item of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Movement / handling and loading / unloading of Parcels / luggage at Koppal Railway Station. **Bid No.: GEM/2025/B/5989250** | **Rs. 11,27,520/-** |

Date and time of bidding:
**From 24.02.2025 to 17:00 Hrs. on 17.03.2025**
**For details log on : www.GeM.gov.in**

**Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager Hubballi**

PUB/822/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**FORM NO. URC-2**

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at Bengaluru that Limited Liability Partnership may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.
2. The principal objects of the company are as follows: Providing Travel and Tourism related services.
3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 843/A, 1st Floor, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560038.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at ROC CRC, IICA, Manesar, Plot No. 6, 7 & 8, Sector - 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgoan. within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Limited Liability at its registered office.

Sd/- **TRAVELEISURES LLP**

## SBM BANK (INDIA) LTD.,

SBM Bank, Corporate Office: 306 A, The Capital G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400051.
E: nitin.garg@sbmbank.co.in, www.sbmbank.co.in

**APPENDIX- IV A**

[See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**(Excluding movable assets, if any, lying in the premises)**

**E-Auction 15 days Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and the Borrowers/Mortgagers in particular that the below described immovable propertymortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, SBM Bank (India) Limited, the physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **24.03.2025** for recovery of **Rs. 71,75,433/-** (Rupees Seventy One Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three only) as on5th March 2025.and further interest at contractual rate from 6th March 2025 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. due to SBM Bank (India) Limited, Secured creditor from **Thirumaleshu M.**
The reserve price, earnest money deposit bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

| Reserve Price (Below which the property will not be sold) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Bid increment amount | Time & Date e-Auction | Last date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rs.90,00,000/- | Rs.9,00,000/- | Rs.9,000/- | 10.30 am. to 11.30 pm. 26.03.2025 | 24.03.2025 up to 4.00 P.M. |

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**Tender No: SBM BANK-02/2024-25**

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No. 20, Sy. No. 17/6, 2nd Block, 2nd Phase, East-West 9.14 (Nine Point One Four) Meters, North-South 6.10 (Six Point One Zero) Meters, Total 55.75 (Fifty Five Point Seven Five ) having a plot measuring square meters and having all rights, sub-rights of any kind attached to the surface of the ground or above, Situated at Rajmahal Villas Extension, Geddalahalli, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by:** Site No.9, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property No. 21 and **South by:** Property No. 19.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the above said property. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://bankeauctions.com.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
SBM Bank (India) Ltd., Mumbai

Place: Bengaluru

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

**Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South), BBMP, South Zone, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar, 2nd Blcok, Bengaluru - 560011.**

**No: SADH(S)/TENDER/28/2024-25 Date: 06-03-2025**

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)**

**(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)**

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement Works in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

**(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Gavi Gangadhareshwara Ward Parks (Ward No.196). **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,10,418.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00** |
| 2 | Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Vishveshwara Puram Ward Parks (Ward No.163). **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 1,04,27,275.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00** |
| 3 | Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Kumaraswamy Layout Ward Parks (Ward No.192). **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 1,40,51,160.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,11,000.00** |
| 4 | Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Koramangala Ward Parks (Ward No.174). **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 1,03,07,925.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00** |

**Calendar of Events: 1)** Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 10-03-2025. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **12-03-2025 at 11.30 AM. 3)** Date of Tender Closing: **17-03-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **18-03-2025 at 4.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

**Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), BBMP.**

## Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board

**Office of the Chief Engineer Dharwad**
**Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Jalamandali Compound, Dharwad-580 001**
**Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)**

Tenders for the following works are invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 2169 Dated: 03-03-2025

**(1)** Replacement of 375mm Dia PSC & 406mm Dia 6.4mm thick MS Pipe with 457mm Dia 5.6mm thick MS Raising Main of BASAVANABAGEWADI town under AMRUT 2.0 (TRANCHE 3) including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years Including 1 year DLP through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer DBOT Mode. Lumpsum Tender No Variation. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT320. **(2)** Providing water supply distribution system to NIDAGUNDI town under AMRUT 2.0 (TRANCHE-3) including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years Including 1 year DLP through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer DBOT Mode. Lumpsum Tender No Variation. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT321. **(3)** Providing water supply Distribution system to BABALESHWAR town under AMRUT 2.0 Tranche (1 & 2) including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years Including 1-year DLP through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer DBOT Mode. Lumpsum Tender No Variation. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT322. **(4)** Providing Water Supply distribution system to TIKOTA town under AMRUT 2.0 (TRANCHE 2) including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years Including 1 year DLP through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer DBOT Mode. Lumpsum Tender No Variation. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT323. **(5)** Providing 2nd stage water supply system to SIDDAPUR town under AMRUT 2.0 (TRANCHE 3) including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years Including 1 year DLP through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer DBOT Mode. Lumpsum Tender No Variation. INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT324.

For further information visit e-procurement portal or Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

DIPR/Dwd/1047/2024-25/DeshpandePublicity

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. Abdul Aleem** S/o Abdul Rasheed who had acquired the same through a registered Sale deed dated 26-10-2021 registered as Document No.JGN-1-05080-2021-22 stored in CD No. JGND1220 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jigani, Bangalore executed by **Mr. Syed Musheeruddin @ Sayyad Musheeruddin** and others.

It is therefore requested that the general public who have any claim over the schedule property or objection for the proposed purchase shall lodge such claim/objection in writing along with supporting documents with the undersigned **within Fifteen days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such claim or objection is received, my client will complete the deal as proposed. Time barred claim/objection if any will not be binding on my client.

**SCHEDULE**

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 32, Purasabhe Khata No. 80881/30/22, having Property No. 1771990660 carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No. 30/22 (converted for non agricultural use as per conversion order No. BDS.ALN.(AJ)SR121/2007-08 dated 05-11-2008) situated at Thirupalya village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, now under the limits of Hebbagudi Nagarasabhe, Bangalore, measuring East to West: (46.6+47)/2 feet and North to South : 62 feet totally measuring 2901.6 Sq. feet bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Nagappa's land, North by: Site No. 33, South by: Site No. 31.

*P.Mahalinga Bhat and Srividya P.M,*
**Advocates,**
TF-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, # 2386, Pipeline Road, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 78. Mob: 9341215791
Dated : 07-03-2025

## KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

**CIVIL ENGINEERING DIVISION, BENGALURU - 560 027**

**No: KST/EE/JE/560/2024-25 Date:06.03.2025**

**KPP PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tenders/Bids are invited from eligible registered Contractors / Individuals / agency / firms for the following works.

| Sl. No. | Tender Notification No. | Name of the work | Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs) | Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) | Time limit in months (including Monsoon) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 19 | Construction of Electronic Driving Testing Track at RTO office premises in Chikkaballapura. | 450.67 | 6,76,000/- | 11 Months |
| 2 | 20 | Construction of Seizing yard at A RTO office premises in Devanahalli. | 268.88 | 4,03,500/- | 9 Months |
| 3 | 21 | Construction of Electronic Driving Testing Track at RTO office premises in Nelamangala. | 492.00 | 7,38,000/- | 11 Months |

More details can be obtained from the E-Procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **10.03.2025 onwards.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/JA/5509/2024-25

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Bidders to participate in E-Auctions for contracts as scheduled below.

| Sl. No. | E-Auction Catalogue No. | Stations | Category/Sub-Category | Date & Time of E-Auctioning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | PARKING-BYD-2 | Parking contract at Byadgi (BYD) Railway Station | PARKING - Mixed | 17.03.2025 at 15.00 Hrs. |

**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**

**Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mysuru**

PUB/820/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

## आयुष् इलाखे

सर्कारी केंद्रीय औषधागार, अशोक पिल्लर् हत्तिर, जयनगर, बेंगळूरु - 560 011. दूरवाणि: 080-26561790.
इ-मेल् : dd.gcpblr24@gmail.com

अधिसूचने संख्ये: GCP-SUPOOTHS/10/2025 दिनांक: 06.03.2025

**इ-टेंडर्**

सर्कारी केंद्रीय औषधागार, जयनगर, बेंगळूरु संस्थेगे 2024-25नेय सालिगे राष्ट्रीय आयुष् अभियानदडि आयुर्वेद मत्तु युनानि औषध तयारिकेगे बेकागुव कच्चा औषधि द्रव्यगळु, प्याकिंग् मेटीरियल्स् मत्तु फ्रैर्वुड् खरिदिसलु अर्ह संस्थेगळिंद द्वि-लकोटे पद्धतियल्लि इ-टेंडर् आह्वानिसलागिदे.

विवरगळिगे https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in मूलक डौन्लोड् माडिकोळ्ळबहुदु. टेंडर् अर्जि सल्लिसलु कोनेय दिनांक: 05/04/2025 समयं 17.00 गंटेयवरेगे. बिड्गळन्नु ऑन्ल्यैन्सल्लि इ-प्रोक्युर्मेंट् प्लाट् फार्म मुखांतर सल्लिसबहुदु.

सहि/- उपनिर्देशकरु (झा)/अध्यक्षरु, टेंडर् आह्वान प्राधिकार, बेंगळूरु

ಜಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಪ್ರಪ್ರ/5456/ಆಕಾರ್/2024-25

## K-RIDE

**RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED**
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
**BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT**

Website: **www.kride.in** | Email ID: **gmprocurement@kride.in**
**Date: 06.03.2025**

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No.: **KRIDE/2024-25/EL/WORK_ INDENT27**
"Shifting Of Electrical Utilities / Street Lights / Any Other Ht/Lt Electrical Equipments Infringing To Various Corridors of K-Ride For The Period of Two Years On Percentage Basis (%).
Last date for submission of bid is **07.04.2025 IST 15:00 Hrs,** for details visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE**

DIPR/CP/5511/Zen/2024-25

KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

## K.K.R.T.C. CE DIVISION BALLARI

**No.KKRTC/EE/CEB/DB/1230/2024-25 Dated:03-03-2025**

**E-PROCRUMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 97 /2024-25**

Tenders are invited for the works mentioned below **1) Name of Work:- Construction of New Bus Depot in Old Bus Station Premisos at Karatagi 2) Amount put to Tender Rs.600.00 Lakhs** (Including All Taxes and GST) **3) EMD :- Rs. 9,00,000.00** In E-procurement the contractors will have to upload all informations in website only. i.e. **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** Bidders / contractors need to register in the e-Procurement portal to submit their bids online and any corrigendum for this notification will be published through E-Procurement portal only. **More information E-Procurement Helpline 080-25501216 / 25501227 or 08392-294828 / 7760992035**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.K.R.T.C. CE Division, Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/996/KSMCA/2024-25

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

**निविदा रद्द सूचना**

एतत् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमंडल द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0– RDD/SD/KHUNTI/06/2024-25 जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या 346265 RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2024-25)_D अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

यह आदेश तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू समझा जाय।

**PR 347997 Rural Development(24-25)#D**

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी

## यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

**BENGALURU – CHANDRA LAYOUT BRANCH**
Door No. 1234, 8th Cross, 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560040.

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI ACT 2002**

**Borrower/ Mortgagor: 1. Mrs. Kavitha Shivaprasad; 2. Mr. Sudindra Dayanand Both are residing at:** Flat No -102 1st Floor , Lakshh Exotica -1 Apartment, NGEF Layout, Mallathahalli, Nagarbhavi,Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru -560056.

**Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice – In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by you with us – Classified as NPA**

We have to inform you that your account **563406800000010** has been/have been classified as NPA account AS ON **28.02.2025** pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues/instalment/interest. As on date **28.02.2025** a sum of **Rs.46,10,520.41 ( Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Ten Thousand Five Hundred Twenty and Forty one Paisa Only**) is outstanding in your account/accounts as shown below.

**Name of Facility Amount Due**

| Sl. No. | Facility/Loan | Limits | Outstanding as on: 29.07.2024 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | UNION HOME 563406800000010 | Rs. 40,00,000.00/- | Rs. 46,10,520.41/- |
| | **Total** | **Rs. 40,00,000.00/-** | **Rs. 46,10,520.41/-** |

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account/accounts / you have not discharged your liabilities.

We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs.46,10,520.41 (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Ten Thousand Five Hundred Twenty and Forty one Paisa Only**)together with interest as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the following securities created by you in favour of the bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET:**

All that Piece and parcel of the Flat No 102,on the First Floor ,measuring 1140 sq ft of super built up area on the building known as "Lakshh Exotica-1"constructed on the schedule A property together with 288.75 sq feet of Undivided share right title and interest in the schedule A property with One Car Parking Space of the Stilt floor, constructed on the Schedule A property bearing residential Site no 149 in sy no 27, BBMP Khata no 1337/912-149 situated at Gidadakonenahalli Village,Yeshwanthpura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West:- North Side 74.00 feet and South Side 80.00 feet and North to South 30.feet totally measuring 2310 sq feet and bounded on: **East By:** Kerekodi Kaluve; **West By:** 30 feet Wide Road; **North By:** Site no 148; **South By:** Site No 150.

1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you.
2) As per sec.13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. Please note any violation of this section entails serious consequences.
3) **Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

**Date: 07.03.2025**
**Place: Bangalore**

**Sd/- (Shashikala Raja)**
**Chief Manager & Authorized Officer**

## केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

**E-Auction Sale of Properties on 26.03.2025**

**Last date of EMD : 25.03.2025**

**ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on"As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.03.2025 (Sl No.1 & 2 : 10.30 AM to 11.00 AM, Sl No.3 : 11.00 AM to 11.30 AM)** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **25.03.2025, 5.00 PM.**

**(₹. in lakhs)**

| Lot No | Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor | Description of the Movable/ Immovable assets: | Total Dues, Type of Possession | a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid | Inspection date & time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **1. M/S Gokul Dairy Rep by its Partner's** located at Sy No -240, No 157, NH -48 B M Road, Gottigere, Kunigal, Tumkur Dist.Karnataka - 572130. **2. Rep by its Partner Sri. K N Krishna Murthy** S/o K R Narayanappa, no 176, Sri Krishna, 5th Main, A Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Yelehanka, Bangalore-560064. **3. Sri. K N Ranganath** S/o Sri. K.R. Narayanappa, No 565, Maddur Road, Kunigal, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka 572130. **4. Sri K R Gayathri** W/o Sri K N Krishna Murthy, **5. K Supriya** D/o K N Krishna Murthy, **Both are residing at:** No.176, Sri Krishna, 5th Main, A Sector, Yelahanka new Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064. | Residential Vacant Site Khatha No 2091/2570(Old no-2570/5079),2092/2571(Old no2571/5080),2094/2578 (Old No -2578/5087), 2096/2579 (Old No-2579/5088) situated at Kunigal town near Housing board colony and property is in the name of K N Krishna Murthy S/o K R Narayanappa.Total extent of 4 site is 5220 Sq ft. Boundaries: East: property be to Sarawathi bai, West: property belong to K N Ranganath, North: property belong to K R Gayathri, South: Road. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude-130157.4N, Longitude-7703569E.** | **Rs. 214514717.13 as on 04.03.2025 with further interest and cost thereon** **Symbolic possession** | a) ₹. 234.90 b) ₹. 23.49 c) ₹.1.00 | 19.03.2025 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer |
| | | Residential vacant site Situated at Khata no 2142/2580 (Old no 2580/5089) Kunigal Town, Municipal council, near KHB colony and property in the name of partner K R Gayathri W/o K N Krishna Murthy. Total extent of land is 6120 Sq ft. Boundaries: East: property belong to Sarawathi bai, West: property belong to K N Balaji Rao, North: Lake Yard, South: Road and property belong to K N Krishnamurthy. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude-130133.3N, Longitude-770206.4E.** | | a) ₹. 203.79 b) ₹. 20.37 c) ₹.1.00 | |
| | | Residential vacant site Khatha No 797/738 (Old No – 738/1368) situated at ward no -9, 3rd cross, Madduru road Kunigal town Tumkur Dist. And property is in the name of partner K S Ranganath S/o K R Narayanappa. Total extent of site is 2894 Sq ft. East: Kodadarama Shetty house, West : Mukbul and Ahmed's House, North : Road, South : Road. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 130123.8N, Longitude- 770128.5E.** | | a) ₹. 97.67 b) ₹. 9.76 c) ₹.1.00 | |
| | | Converted land site Sy.No.240/2, Old 240, Khata No.184/211 Old Khata No.240/2 measuring 2 acres 7 guntas plus 7 guntas of Kharab in all measuring 2 acre and 14 guntas within the limits of Beguru Village Panchayat, Gottigere Village, Hutrigere Village, Hutridurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur Dt., bounded by : East: Property of Shafiullah Khan, West : Road, North: Ansarulla Khan; South: Land of Abdul Azeez and Fiaz Khan, Valuation at time of sanction ₹.691.24, **Coordinates of the property, Latitude-130157.4N, Longitude-770356.9E.** | | a) ₹. 458.93 b) ₹. 45.89 c) ₹.1.00 | |
| 2 | **(1) Sri. Nandana M Hanumantha** S/o Hanumantha, No. 132, 4th Cross, Vinayaka Lank View Layout], KanishiramNagara, Vidyaranyapura Layout, Bengaluru-560047 | Flat No 202 First Floor Sampruthi Enclave Nagadevanahalli Village Kengerihobil Situated At Padmauadyayalayout, Formed In Synos 31,32/1 And 35 Duly Converted Into Non Agricultural Land Conversion Certificate No ALN.SR.2017/1970-71 of Nagadevanahalli Village Kengeri Hobil Total Mesuring 8400 Sqft, Plinth Area/super Built up Area For Flat 995 Sq.ft. Presently Coming Under The Limit Of BBMP Amalgamated Khata No 2561/2047/4/31, 32/1, 35/224, 223, 195 &, 196 and bounded on: East: Road, West : Road,North site No.197 & site no 222, South by Site No. 194 & Site No. 225. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.935568, Longitude- 77.498608** | **Rs. 7139221.20 as on 04.03.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.** **Symbolic possession** | a) ₹. 37.04 b) ₹. 3.70 c) ₹.1.00 | 19.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer |
| 3 | **1. M/s Tidewater shipping Private Limited,** Cunningham Classic, No.104, 22, Cunningham Road, Bangaluru-560052. **2. Sri Subhash Menon** S/o Sri Gopal Menon, Flat No.1, CR II Floor, Regency Place No.7, Richmond Road, Bangalore 560002. **3. Smt. Sunithi s Menon** W/o Sri Subhash Menon, **4. Sri Aditya Menon** S/o Sri Subash Menon, **Both are residing at:** Flat No.1, C2 II Floor, Regency Place No.7, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560002. | Residential property situated at Flat no. 104, Municipal No. 22/5 PID No.78/62/22/5 On The First Floor of Building Known as " Cunningham Classic" Constructed on Property No. 22 ( Old No.25 ), Ward No.78, Sampangi Ramaswamy Temple, Street Cunninghum Road, Bangalore. With super Built up area 578.65 Sq.ft East By : Private Property, West By: Cunninghum Road, North By: Cunningham Crescent, South By: Private Property. **Owner of the Property : Sri Subhash Menon & Smt. Sunithi Menon. Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.983639 Longitude- 77.598278** | **Rs. 37985363.47 as on 04.03.2025 with further interest and cost thereon** **Physical possession** | a) ₹. 98.11 b) ₹. 9.81 c) ₹.1.00 | 19.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer |

**Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.**

**For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.**

**Date : 05.03.2025**
**Place: Bangalore**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

A BG-BGE

# Siddaramaiah to present his record 16th Budget today

IN THE LEGISLATURE

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present his record 16th State Budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, and it is expected to raise borrowings from both domestic and global agencies to ensure infrastructure development, especially in Bengaluru city.

The Budget size is expected to touch ₹4 lakh crore as against the ₹3,71,383 crore in 2024-25. The major task before the Chief Minister is striking a balance between spending on developmental projects and social welfare schemes, especially the five guarantees. A whopping ₹1,20,373 crore was allocated for welfare programmes in 2024-25.

The government had set a target of borrowing ₹1,05,246 crore in the State Budget for 2024-25. The government has decided to raise ₹3,500 crore from the World Bank for management of floods, construction of stormwater drains, improving drinking water supply, and developing other infrastructure in the city. The BDA has also decided to raise ₹27,000 crore from Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) for the Peripheral Ring Road project. With these two major projects, the borrowings are expected to surpass ₹1.25 lakh crore.

The State can borrow up to 25% of its GSDP, a cap imposed by the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act. The Budget is likely to highlight the State's GST contribution to the national economy, recent success of Invest Karnataka 2025, the Karnataka Model of Development and "robust" economic growth seen during the last year following good monsoon.

Mr. Siddaramaiah is unlikely to reduce expenditure on the five guarantees. The 2024-25 Budget had set aside ₹52,000 crore for the guarantee schemes. The Budget is expected to see a hike in capital expenditure to ward off criticism from the BJP and the JD(S).

**Revenue deficit**

Sources said Mr. Siddaramaiah is expected to present a revenue deficit Budget this year too. The 2024-25 Budget had ₹27,354 crore revenue deficit. Ahead of elections to rural and urban local bodies, the Chief Minister is expected to hike allocations for SCP/TSP, Kalyana Karnataka regions, midday meal workers, and small minority caste groups in the State.

# Microfinance Bill proposes to free borrowers from repaying loans to unregistered MFIs

The Bill proposes imprisonment of up to 10 years and fine of up to ₹5 lakh

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In a bid to provide relief to the economically vulnerable groups, individuals, SHGs, and small and marginal farmers, the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday. The Bill proposes to wholly discharge borrowers from repaying loans, including rate of interest, taken from unlicensed and unregistered microfinance institutions (MFIs).

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil tabled the Bill that mandates the release of securities taken by unregistered lenders. "It is justified because unlike banks, unregistered lenders operate without regulatory oversight and often acquire securities through coercion," he said.The Bill asks borrowers not to repay the loans, including amount of interest, taken from unlicensed leaders.

**Wholly discharged**

The Bill states: "Every loan, including the amount of interest, if any, payable by the borrower to the MFIs which are unlicensed and unregistered, shall be deemed to be wholly discharged. No civil court shall entertain any suit or proceeding against the borrower for the recovery of any amount of loan including interest."

All suits and proceedings pending against borrowers for the recovery of loans would be closed. MFIs or money lending agencies or lenders should not seek security from borrowers by pawn, pledge or any other security for the loans, the Bill states.

The Bill envisages imposition of penalties, including imprisonment and fines. The punishment aligns with the doctrine of deterrence, as seen in the Prevention of the Money Laundering Act, 2002. The Bill proposed imprisonment of up to 10 years and fine of up to ₹5 lakh.

**Only four components**

The Bill said there should be only four components in the pricing of the loan, namely, the interest charge, the processing charge, the insurance premium, and delayed penal payment.

All MFIs or lenders should provide the borrower a loan card reflecting the rate of interest charged; terms and conditions attached to the loan; information which adequately identifies the borrower; acknowledgements by MFIs of all repayments; and all entries in the loan card should be in Kannada. All MFIs should have a registered office in the local area.

**No coercive action**

The Bill proposed to ban use of coercive action by MFIs, which include exerting pressure, using violence, intimidating the borrower, frequenting the house, or other place where the borrower resides or works. It banned use of the service of private or outsourcing agencies for making repayments by borrowers.

The proposed legislation is a necessary and legally sound intervention to address financial exploitation, and does not violate any fundamental rights. It would provide protection for vulnerable borrowers. The principles of social justice, economic fairness, and the protection of life and dignity justify the need for immediate enforcement, the Bill states.

**Mandatory registration**

It made registration of MFIs with the government mandatory within 30 days from the date of commencement of this Act. Applications should be submitted to the Registration Authority of the district. The registration for operation is valid for a one-year period.

The Bill proposed appointment of ombudsperson, who can act as mediator between the borrower or lender, for settling disputes. The Bill seeks to replace an ordinance.

## From Page One

### Assembly passes Palace Bill amid Oppn. walkout

He said the government has used executive power to withdraw from the road widening work.

Terming the move of the government as a "political vendetta", BJP state President B.Y. Vijayendra said, "Why has the State government woken up now? Because the BJP (Mysuru) MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar belongs to the erstwhile royal family, the Congress government is extracting political revenge."

However, when Mr. Vijayendra said that the BJP government had decided in 2022 not to pay the TDR in the interest of the public, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge pointed out that he was contradicting himself.

C.N. Ashwathnarayan, the BJP legislator from Malleswaram, under whose jurisdiction the Bangalore Palace falls, said the TDR will not come into the picture till the main case over the ownership of the Palace property between the government and the erstwhile royal family is settled.

### 'System to cap multiplex ticket rates soon'

"As per the Budget announcement, there was also a Government Order on May 11, 2018. However, the order was withdrawn since there was a stay on the order. Now there is a system in place where the ticket prices of cinemas are decided by the owners of the cinemas themselves," he said.

"We are aware that watching films in multiplexes is still beyond the reach of the middle class, as besides ticket rates, most cine-goers cannot afford to buy drinking water and snacks there. Though the government made a move to allow cine-goers to carry food and water into multiplexes, that is also not being followed. We will soon put in place a comprehensive system to regulate and bring uniformity in cinema ticket prices," he assured.

The Home Minister, who pointed out that there were 650 single-screen cinemas in the State earlier, said "While 100 have shut, 150 more are on the verge of closure due to various reasons."

# It was not Oxford varsity but employee of CMO who lauded Karnataka model: Ashok

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok on Thursday pooh-poohed the Congress government's claim that the "Karnataka model of development" was lauded by the Oxford University as cited in the Governor's joint address.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking on the motion of thanks to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's address to the joint session of the legislature, Mr. Ashok said the citation was from the Oxford Human Rights Hub (OHRH) blog post by Jehosh Paul, lawyer and research consultant. "He has nothing to do with the reputed Oxford University. Why did Mr. Paul write this? At the time when this blog was written, he was on the payroll of the Chief Minister's Office. He also worked with IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge's office in 2019 for two months."

Mr. Ashok said: "I wanted to know who this renowned economist was who praised the development. Later, I found that the person who wrote this was not Oxford University's Vice-Chancellor, head of any department, or even a professor."

He came down heavily on the government for using the Oxford University's credentials.

In his address, Mr. Gehlot had said that the "Karnataka model" was being studied by economists and universities around the world.

"Oxford University has described this model as 'Shining a light in the darkness' and 'A blueprint for the world' in its Human Rights Hub blog," the Governor said.

Mr. Kharge, however, defended the blog and said there was nothing wrong in claiming credit for work done by the government.

# 'DGP appointed exclusively to monitor cybercrimes'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Expressing concern over the increasing cases of cybercrime in the State, Home Minister G. Parameshwara informed the Legislative Council on Thursday that the number of such cases had increased from 10,572 in 2020 to 21,984 by 2024.

Responding to JD(S) member S.L. Bhoje Gowda on the law and order situation in the State, Dr. Parameshwara said Karnataka has set up an exclusive cyber unit to deal with cybercrimes and a DG-rank officer has been appointed. "This is a first in the country. Cyber fraudsters are stealing crores of rupees from bank accounts every day. They are stealing data. The emphasis of our cyber unit, which comprises a DGP, ADGP, IGP, and seven SPs, is monitoring and curbing cybercrime cases," he said.

Refuting the Opposition's allegations that the law and order in the State was deteriorating, he said: "Crime rate has fallen over the years. From 1,315 murder cases that were registered across the State in 2020, the number reduced to 1,208 in 2024. This year, since January, 100 murder cases have been registered."

**Wheeling**

Admitting that the number of wheeling cases are on the rise in Bengaluru, Dr. Parameshwara said strict action is being initiated. In 2023, Bengaluru recorded 242 wheeling cases and 264 persons were arrested. "In 2024, the city recorded 532 cases and 479 persons were arrested. This year so far, 114 wheeling cases have been registered and 102 persons arrested," he said.

# Psychology evaluation for slow learners sought

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa assured the Legislative Council that reforms will be brought in primary education to help children develop learning abilities from the primary level.

He was responding to BJP MLC Dhananjaya Sarji, who demanded a psychological evaluation of slow learners and based on their abilities provide them with a scribe to write exams.

**SSLC exams**

Of the 8.6 lakh students, who wrote SSLC exams this year, over 2.28 lakh children failed.

"Over the years, the learning abilities of children have dropped. The government should conduct a survey to identify slow learners and do a psychological evaluation," he said.

# Govt. merging varsities: DKS

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said the government was not closing down any universities but only merging them.

Intervening in the debate on the Governor's speech when Leader of Opposition R. Ashok was speaking on the government's move to close nine varsities, Mr. Shivakumar said lecturers were not willing to join the new universities.

# HC stays police notice to Kannada YouTuber

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed till March 12 the notice issued by Ballari police asking Sameer M.D., operator of Kannada YouTube channel 'Dhoota: Sameer MD', to appear for investigation on an FIR registered based on the contents in a video titled 'Dharmasthala Soujanya case', posted on his channel a week ago.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by 25-year-old Sameer after noticing that the police had not provided the copy of the FIR along with the notice served to him on March 5 asking him to appear for the investigation on March 6.

The Cowl Bazar police in Ballari *suo motu* had registered the FIR on March 5 under Section 299 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

It was complained in the FIR that the contents of video had several averments about Dharmasthala and the members of the family that manages the temple.

However, the petitioner had claimed that the video did not contain any copyrighted material, defamatory content or hate speech against any individual or religion but contains only details of judgments passed by the courts in the 2012 Soujanya murder case, public sentiments, and concerns about inadequacies in the investigation of the murder case.

# HC terms *mala fide* the conduct of NWKRTC in accident case

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has described as *mala fide* the conduct of the North-West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) for taking contrary stands before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and the Labour Court about the role of its bus driver in a road accident that happened in 2013 in which a motorcyclist died.

The NWKRTC had contended before MACT that "its driver was driving in a proper manner and the fault was that of the motorcycle rider", and had justified its decision to dismiss the driver from service for misconduct holding him "guilty of rash and negligent driving in the accident in the departmental enquiry", the High Court pointed out.

"I am of the considered opinion that the contradictory stand taken by the NWKRTC is not sustainable and is in fact *mala fide*," observed Justice Suraj Govindaraj while dismissing NWKRTC's petition challenging the Labour Court's order passed in 2019 in favour of driver Hussainsab, who was dismissed from service.

Pointing out that the NWKRTC had initiated departmental enquiry for alleged rash and negligent against the driver in January 2014 and MACT had concluded its proceedings on claims made by accident victim's family in June 2014, the High Court said the NWKRTC had maintained that action of his driver was prober before the MACT.

"The NWKRTC being a government entity and a State under the Constitution, is required to be a model litigant," the High Court said.

A model litigant, the High Court said "cannot take contradictory stands. On the one hand, contending that the driver was driving in a proper manner, certifying the driver's conduct. And on the other, initiate proceedings against a driver for rash driving by contending that there is a misconduct".

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

80th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

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7.3.1945 - 2.9.2022
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DEATH

OBITUARY

Dr. SUJATHA SURESH
w/o S.SURESH
passed away on
Monday, March 3rd.
10th-day Ceremony:12/03/25
at Koneru Perumal Temple
Secunderabad, Telangana.
SHUBASWEEKARAM: 15/03/25
at Kanchi Nivas, Begumpet, begins at 10.00 A.M. followed by Lunch
S.Suresh - 9440065035
*Inserted by Family*
Dr. SUJATHA SURESH
w/o S.SURESH

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

"Birthday Remembrance"

K.J. Ramaswamy
07.3.1946 – 30.7.2018
Fondly remembered by
Family & Friends

# How Bengaluru became scientific powerhouse

Some of the reasons for this accomplishment are the city's strong connection with metallurgy, abundance of human capital, and several choices made by leaders over time

**Shilpa Elizabeth**
BENGALURU

It is common knowledge that the first known use of ballistics in warfare globally was by Tipu Sultan. However, what many might not know is that the Yelahanka Air Force station, where recently the prestigious air show was conducted with much pomp and glory attracting crowds in lakhs, is located not very far from one of the major armories that produced the very same rockets of Tipu used in the Anglo-Mysore wars, points out Aromar Revi, founding Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru.

Referred to as "Mysore Rockets", these were deployed against the British in the first three Anglo-Mysore wars and were far more advanced than the British tools of warfare then. The Mysore army used high-quality iron tubes to fill in gunpowder, giving it better speed and range than the others.

"They were successful because of the alloys and metallurgy that were locally developed, which could pack in a lot more gunpowder. These rockets could shoot over a kilometer. The battle with Cornwallis was won simply because of the range that was possible because of metallurgy," says Vijay Chandru, academic and entrepreneur.

Bengaluru's road to becoming the scientific powerhouse of India did not happen overnight. It tracks its roots to its strong connection with metallurgy, an abundance of human capital trained in science and technology, and choices made by leaders and rulers over time, argued panellists Aromar Revi, Vijay Chandru and Jahnavi Phalkey, who were speaking at the recent History Lit Fest held at Christ University.

**An exceptional city**

What made Bengaluru a city of its scale today despite it not being a national capital or a major trading centre?

"This is a region which has seen the backwash of history for more than 1,500 years with multiple waves of people going back and forth. In that sense, it is a deeply cosmopolitan city... And that has influenced this place, its culture and how it functions," said Revi, while acknowledging that it wasn't still enough to explain the rapid growth and expansion the city witnessed.

In the absence of a strong financial sector, he believes Bengaluru's story was written by its people, its institutions and its legacy of innovation which seems to go as far back as Tipu and beyond.

**The metallurgy connection**

Citing the recent reports emerging from the archeological digs in Tamil Nadu, Chandru pointed out that the region may have advanced to the iron age while other parts of the subcontinent were still in the Copper Age due to its capabilities and resources to smelt iron ore.

And it doesn't stop at the Mysore rockets. Bengaluru's saga of metallurgy continued and saw several epochal moments, such as the setting up of the Bhadravati Iron and Steel plant and the formation of the country's first advanced research institute, the Indian Institute of Science.

Jamsetji Tata, who wanted to start a research institution in the country, also wanted to establish an institution that could help with his industry in the battles, pointed out Chandru. This culminated in the idea of establishing a college of electro-metallurgy in the city, which today is known as the Indian Institute of Science or IISc.

"Of course, it expanded into many other things later, but there is a strong connection with metallurgy. The Bhadravati Iron and Steel, which was the creation of Sir M Visvesvaraya, is another connect ... Metallurgy may have been part of the secret of Bengaluru ... Technology was always at the core of this city," he noted.

The Indian Institute of Science campus. FILE PHOTO

The ISDN hub at Byalalu village near Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

HMT Heritage Centre and Museum. FILE PHOTO

Advanced Light Helicopter at HAL, Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

**The human capital**

While the technological core of the city has been important in shaping Bengaluru, equally important has been the role of its human capital.

Economist and Nobel laureate Milton Friedman, who visited the country in 1955 at the invitation of then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, observed that there is "great untapped resource of technical and scientific knowledge available to India for the taking" and he termed it "the economic equivalent of the untapped continent available to the United States 150 years ago."

Referring to this, Chandru said, "In the 1980s, Texas Instruments and all the chip design companies started coming to the city because they could find technical talent here. It was the multinationals who discovered this talent and leveraged it. The local tech boom came 15-20 years later; it was not they who discovered it or leveraged it. And that continues till today. Why does the government make statements about GCCs? It's nothing but the same old Milton treatment. There is talent there for the taking."

**The 'triangle'**

While the city was always strong on science and technology, there were also very specific incidents that gave its growth the much-needed momentum.

"There was a confluence of accidents and choices made in the early 20th century, and Sir Visvesvaraya was very much a part of that process," said Revi, pointing to a 'triangle' formed by the KRS Dam, the Bhadravati Iron and Steel, and Kolar Gold Fields.

"The KRS was built to deal with the challenge of drought and agricultural productivity; Bhadravati was built on the very old tradition of metallurgy, which was very well advanced in this particular region. And thirdly Kolar. The triangle of the connection between these three produced electricity, fuelled industrial processes and brought in electricity for the mines in Kolar, and Bengaluru got mixed up in the middle, making it the first electrified city in this country. It is a mix of choices and accidents," he said.

Yet another happy turn of events was IISc being set up in Bengaluru instead of Roorkee, the location proposed for the institute by the committee comprising Colonel John Clibborn and David Orme Masson. As the city had no financial backing, the government decided to go with Bengaluru as proposed by Sir William Ramsay.

**Historical accidents**

According to Revi, there was also another set of "accidents" historical in nature and caused by the world war.

"The war essentially brought the western military industrial complex into the heart of this city primarily because the Japanese were in the Andamans, they attacked Kolkatta, they also shelled Chennai. So, Mountbatten's headquarters was here. Walchand Hirachand set up HAL here because initially, it was part of maintaining the Allied aircraft, later building out our own capacity. So, the aerospace industry also came here through an accident of fate," he noted.

Years later, the city saw some of the first PSUs in the country, the establishment of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (the predecessor of ISRO), and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research catalysing the formation of other institutions such as NCBS and a boom in biotech research.

"There is a whole range of different pathways that have created a set of institutions here in the city which are both in the CSIR and public science tradition... There are these intertwined processes that created opportunities and a whole set of entrepreneurs and tremendous leaders who actually used those things whether it is in the IT industry, BT industry or even in the computer trade to actually make things work," Revi noted.

**The misses**

With regards to the PSUs that were set up in the city, Phalkey presented an interesting anecdote.

"Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) made lathes and milling machines for industrialisation. But the precision manufacturing in watches, which is what some of us of a generation remember, also spilled onto the city in different ways, such that when the first satellite had to be launched and the work was happening at the Indian Institute of Science and ISRO then, the circuit boards were printed by a watchmaker. And that was because the city had watchmakers who were able to do that kind of work."

But the glory of HMT watches started fading by the 1980s and 90s, and its losses mounted. In 2016, the government shut down its last plant.

**Lost legacy**

While industrialisation came to the city as early as 1884 with the establishment of Binny mills, the city has also seen its own share of misses, like in the case of HMT.

"HMT was very important to industrialization... But today, people have forgotten it, and that legacy is lost. Most people don't realize that the single largest employer in the city is the textile sector and not the IT-BT itself. But that's the old echo," Revi noted.

According to him, yet another story of loss has been in the domain of solar technology. In the 1970s, India started doing cutting-edge work in solar technology, with Central Electronics Limited developing and producing the country's first solar photovoltaic cell and solar photovoltaic panel. BEL and BHEL manufactured solar cells for space applications.

Says Revi, "If you look at what the Chinese have been able to do over the last 20-25 years creating renewables, which is now probably the single largest emerging technology in the world, we had the opportunity to do it here, but it didn't work. So, there are stories of missed opportunities too in some senses."

# Dhrushya theatre troupe celebrates 20 years

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

For the past two decades, Dhrushya has been an active troupe in Bengaluru's theatre scene, nurturing young talent and bringing productions to audiences across Karnataka and beyond. As part of its tradition, Dhrushya organises an annual theatre festival - Natakotsava - celebrating its artistic journey and engaging with theatre enthusiasts.

This year's event happening on March 9, from 3 p.m., holds special significance as the troupe marks its 20th anniversary.

**Festival line-up**

The festival line-up includes a screening of the short films *Suptha, Butterfly, Last Order, Mattommee Sigabeda,* and *Khush Khushiyagi* and a showcase of their popular play *Taj Mahalina Tender,* written by Ajay Shukla, translated by Dakshyayani Somashekar and directed by Dakshayini Bhat. At the festival, Drushya will also felicitate prominent Kannada thespians, writer Dr. Vijaya, theatre and filmmaker T.S. Nagabharana and theatre director Suresh Anagalli.

# Fourth Wall Theatre's new play *Moogetu* explores caste, identity, and survival

Director Sidhaartha Maadhyamika says the play focuses on education and self-respect, which have become two important tools for survival today

**Yemen S.**
BENGALURU

A young theatre troupe, Fourth Wall Theatre, is set to present its recent play *Moogetu* at Ranga Shankara, on Friday.

Opened in January, written by Ravikiran Rajendran, the play is designed and directed by Sidhaartha Maadhyamika. The synopsis of the play reads that *Moogetu* revolves around the journey of two characters, Roopa and Divya, who are separated by time, space, and worlds but bound by their shared experiences of oppression and violence in a casteist society.

Scenes from the play Moogetu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The play showcases the life of Roopa, who teaches English at a reputed college and is caught up in the conundrum of dealing with the caste identity in her workspace, personal relationships, and her neighbourhood. What her father tried to protect them from when he was alive has come to haunt her, and she is faced with making choices that could determine her survival and life ahead if she makes it.

Meanwhile, Divya is chased by the characters from an unfinished play who were unhappy with the way the play was shaping up and have killed the playwright to prevent him from completing it. Divya, in her efforts to survive and hoping that her stories survive, shares light on the oppressive structures of caste in academic institutions.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, director Sidhaartha Maadhyamika said that the play focuses on education and self-respect, which have become two important tools for survival today. "For years, caste, class and gender discrimination have been normalised in our society. This play questions why these discriminations have been accepted in our daily lives.

*Moogetu* is a mixture of dreams, imagination and truth, which is also the strength of the play. The performers and audience will experience a new reflection of the lives we are living," he explained.

The director said that designing a play was a challenge.

"A play is usually rehearsed for a month or more and performed, but this play needed close to six months. The scriptwriter and I worked and re-wrote the script multiple times, and every actor was involved throughout the process. The entire process was a revelation of ourselves, and we have enjoyed the process to the fullest," Sidhaartha added.

Tickets for the shows, at 7.30 p.m., are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on BookMyShow.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** MARCH 7, 1975

### Autorickshaws Go Off the Road in Bangalore

Bangalore, March 6: The roads of Bangalore were less noisy and less crowded to-day on account of 7,000 autorickshaws going off the road in response to a one-day strike call given by the Autorickshaw Drivers' Union.

Barring a few stray autorickshaws plying in the morning in some areas, the autorickshaw drivers' token strike was a total success, as more than 90 per cent of the drivers responded to the call and kept their vehicles off the road.

The drivers from different parts of the city gathered inside the Cubbon Park, near the Vidhana Soudha circle and held a day-long silent dharna in support of their demand to fix the minimum auto fare at 90 paise as against the present 45 paise for the first km. After staging the dharna, they dispersed peacefully. There was no report of any untoward incident.

The worst sufferers were the visitors arriving in the city at the railway stations.

### Charges Against Urs

New Delhi, March 6: The Government is "further" examining the allegations against the Chief Minister and other Ministers of Karnataka in the light of clarifications received from the Chief Minister on some points, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Om Mehta, told the Rajya Sabha to-day.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, was first asked to send his comments on some memoranda containing allegations. "On examination of the comments received from the Chief Minister, it was found necessary to ask for some clarifications," he added.

# Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

## IN SHORT

### Railway barricade installed

The Forest Department has installed railway barricades to prevent elephants from entering human habitats and plantations. The barricades are considered effective installations to handle human-elephant conflict. However, the animals have succeeded in crossing the barricades and solar fencing on several occasions.

### Number of elephant deaths in State

The human-elephant conflict has resulted in the deaths of many elephants, too. In 2024, as many as 78 elephants died across the State, and among them, nine died due to electrocution. Of them, one each was in Shivamogga and Hassan districts and two in Chikkamagaluru district. The elephants died after coming in contact with live wires placed by farmers to protect their crops.

### Number of human casualties

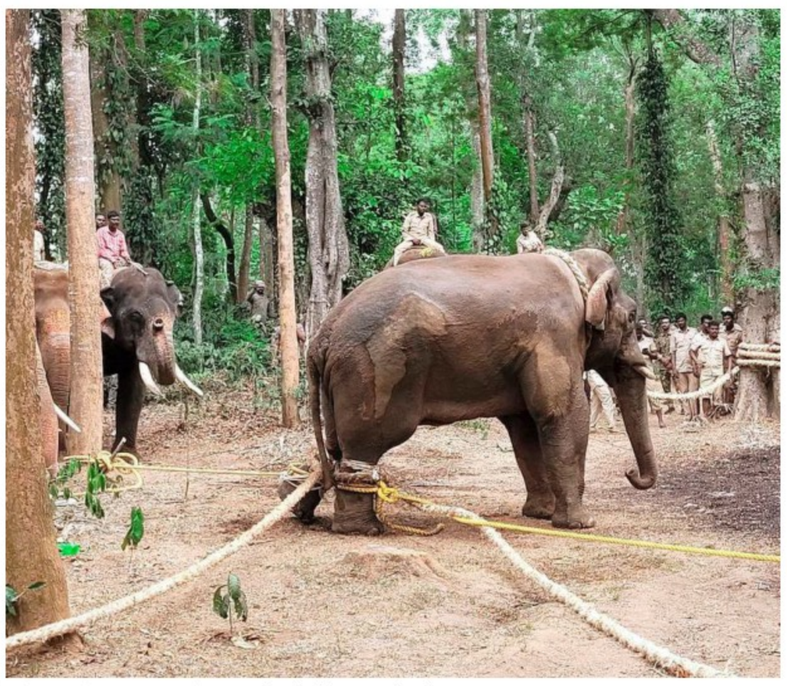
More than 100 people have died in elephant attacks in Hassan district in the past two decades. Many are workers in coffee plantations who encounter the pachyderms at their workplace. The owners of plantations are worried about ensuring safety for their workers, besides protecting their crops from raiding elephants.

### Rapid response teams formed

The Forest Department has introduced rapid response teams to keep track of the movement of elephant herds and alert the local public. The local active youths, who are well aware of the terrain, have been involved in the teams. They follow the herds and individual elephants to keep the villagers safe. They work till late in the evening.

### Alerts on villagers' phones

The villagers spread over Belur, Sakaleshpur and Alur taluks get alerts on the movement of elephants on their phones. The officers have formed groups on WhatsApp to spread information. They also make public announcements and display boards to caution the villagers. The department tracks the movement of herds by installing radio collars on elephants.



The Forest Department officials have captured trouble-causing elephants on many occasions. The photos show one such operation in Hassan district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Human-elephant conflict intensifies yet again in Hassan sparking tension

Two back-to-back deaths in Belur taluk following attacks by elephants forced the Forest Minister to visit the region and assure measures to tackle this decades-old problem

**Sathish G.T.**
HASSAN

Dyavamma, 74, of Kanaguppe village in Belur taluk of Hassan district, could not sleep on February 12. One of her cows had not returned home by evening that day as it usually would after grazing. The next day, around 4 a.m., she left home in search of her cow. She worked as an agricultural labourer in estates to support her family and also reared cows.

As she did not return home even after many hours, her husband and relatives got worried. They went in search of her. To their shock, the old lady was found dead. Given the condition of her body, the villagers understood that she had died in an elephant attack. Considering the series of similar incidents in the taluk and neighbouring taluks for the past several years, it was not difficult for them to guess the cause of her death.

The villagers staged a protest, demanded fair compensation for the family of the deceased and wanted all the elephants roaming in parts of Hassan district captured and relocated. The senior officers of the Hassan district administration and the Forest Department had a tough time handling the crowd. Belur MLA H.K. Suresh of the opposition BJP also joined the protest and took the officers to task for failing to stop elephants from entering human habitat.

### One more tragedy

Even as the people were reeling under this tragedy, another person died in similar circumstances. Anil Kumar, 28, was returning from an estate at Byadane village in Belur taluk on the evening of February 24 when he encountered a wild elephant. It trampled him to death. His mother, Parvathamma, lost her only son and breadwinner of the family.

Following the incident, the local people started an indefinite protest at the spot, refusing to lift the body. The next day, people of many villages around joined the protest and observed a bandh at Arehalli, a hobli centre.

### The root cause

For the last four decades, parts of Sakaleshpur, Alur, Belur and Arakalgud taluks, which lie in the foothills of the Western Ghats, have been facing human-elephant conflict. The local people believe that elephants coming into human habitats began after the construction of the Hemavathi reservoir in the late 1970s. The construction of the dam and the submergence of vast areas led to the fragmentation of forest cover. The railway line, highway and expansion of plantation area disturbed the elephant corridor. The elephants began to raid paddy fields and visit estates in search of food.

The villagers suffered the impact of human-elephant conflict in the 1980s, forcing the Forest Department to launch a drive to capture and relocate elephants. The first such drive was held in 1987, as per the Forest Department records. Over the years, the number of elephants has increased. There is no data on the exact number of elephants roaming in parts of Hassan districts. However, the number could be more than 100, spread over three or four groups. Besides them, a few tuskers roam separately. The lone tuskers cause trouble, and it is difficult for the department to keep track of them.

Aane Venkatesh, who is known for his role in capturing elephants, died in an elephant attack in Hassan in August 2023. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In many villages of Belur and Sakaleshpur taluks, there have been instances of tuskers taking strolls in the main streets in daylight, leaving the people traumatised. The parents are worried about the safety of their children. A few among the dead in the elephant attacks are children. There are incidents where schoolchildren encounter elephants on their way to school. During the exams, the district administration takes extra caution to ensure the safety of children.

The human-elephant conflict has affected both humans and elephants. Since 1987, more than 100 people have died in elephant attacks. On the other hand, more than 40 elephants have died due to the conflict since 2003. As the number of elephants is increasing, the incidents of conflict are also on the rise. The farmers are losing their crops. Many planters have lost their well-grown coffee plants. Once a group of elephants passes through an estate, hundreds of plants are lost.

### Demand for relocation

Time and again, the growers and local people have demanded capture and relocation of all elephants roaming in the district. They argue that most of the elephants that roam in the district have become accustomed to human habitats.

In fact, a few wildlife experts also recommended this. M.K. Appaiah, retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and Ajay A. Desai, an expert on elephants, did a study on the human-elephant conflict of Hassan and submitted a report to the State government in 2007. The report observed that the elephant habitat, which is contiguous from Nagarhole up to the Cauvery River, became fragmented and patchy in the area bordering between Kodagu and Hassan districts. They recommended relocating the entire elephant population from the area. Earlier, the department did an experiment by relocating a couple of elephants to far-off places after installing radio collars on them. Interestingly, they returned to their native place a few days later. The local people want the elephants to be shifted to such a place from where they cannot return. The department has also captured several elephants, particularly those causing trouble, and shifted them to elephant camps.

### Risky situations

The Forest Department staff often encounter difficulties while handling the herd. Venkatesh, who was popularly known as Aane Venkatesh for his role in capturing elephants for radio-collaring, died in an elephant attack during an elephant capture operation in August, 2023.

Tamed (kumki) elephants play a significant role in capturing wild elephants. Arjuna, the elephant known for carrying howdah during Mysuru Dasara celebrations, died on December 4, 2023, after being attacked by a wild elephant during one such operation.

The members of the elephant task force and the youths who are part of the Rapid Response Team face risky situations during their job of tracking the elephants. Considering the series of deaths and the threat caused to the local community, the Forest Department is also contemplating the relocation of the entire elephant population from the human habitats of Hassan and the neighbouring districts of Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu.

### Minister's visit

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre visited Belur taluk on March 3 and visited the family of Anil, who died in an elephant attack last week. On this occasion, the Minister assured the local people that the government would capture and relocate all wild elephants from the three districts to the elephant camp proposed to come up in Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. The Minister, in response to a question in the Legislative Council on March 4, said that over 200 elephants that had been roaming outside forest areas would be returned to the forest. The camp is expected to come up in 2,000 acres. The place would be developed such that elephants could get sufficient food and water. The minister is expecting ₹100 crore in the budget for this project.

At present, as per the last census, there are 6,395 elephants in Karnataka. This is the highest in any state in the country. In tune with the number, the conflict is also high. The department has dug trenches and installed tentacle fencing, solar fencing, and railway barricades to restrict the animal movement. The department also conducted a convention involving experts from abroad to discuss the issue. The Minister said he was expecting suggestions from a team of experts at the Indian Institute of Science on measures to control the elephant population.

Aane Venkatesh, extreme left, during an operation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## INBRIEF

### Kerala multiple murder case accused sent to police custody

The Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Nedumangad, has allowed seven-day police custody of A.R. Affan, a 23-year-old charged with the methodical and premeditated murders of his four family members and girlfriend in different locations in Venjaramoodu taluk in Thiruvananthapuram on February 26. The police have detained Affan in the Pangode police station. They will take him to the crime scene in his house escorted by armed police officers.

### Four from Haryana held for foiled bid to rob ATM in A.P.

Kurnool police have arrested four persons who were allegedly behind the foiled attempt to rob a ATM at Chinnatekur in Andhra Pradesh on February 24. All the four accused are from Haryana. According to the police, unidentified persons attached a rope to the shutters of the Bank of Baroda ATM centre on the National Highway-44 service road and hooked it to a towing vehicle and forcibly opened it. Locals noticed the miscreants trying to rob the ATM and informed the police.

### 63 held for operating out of a fake call centre in Hyderabad

A total of sixty-three individuals operating out of a fake call centre in Hyderabad's HiTec City were arrested by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) in an operation carried out on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. The individuals, posing as PayPal customer care representatives, primarily targeted Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and U.S. citizens, tricking them into fraudulent financial transactions.

# No more filing of FIRs against Udhayanidhi over remarks: SC

SC refuses to be drawn into Maharashtra's attack on the DMK leader in open court over his *Sanatana Dharma* remarks; Chief Justice says court was not dealing with the merits of the case

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday barred the registration of fresh cases against Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin for his remarks on '*Sanatana Dharma*', even as it refused to be drawn into the State of Maharashtra's belligerent personal attack on the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader in open court.

"No further cases will be registered without permission of this court," a Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar ordered.

> The court is examining his [Udhayanidhi Stalin] plea for a limited relief of having the multiple FIRs against him clubbed and heard in one State
>
> **SANJIV KHANNA**
> Chief Justice of India

**FIR in Patna**

The brief hearing took a mercurial turn shortly after the Chief Justice addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's side, saying "you cannot keep filing FIRs (First Information Reports) like this".

The admonishment from the Bench came after senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, for Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin, submitted that a new FIR had been filed against Mr. Stalin in Patna.

Mr. Mehta told the Bench that he was not filing any FIRs. "I represent the State of Maharashtra," he said.

Chief Justice Khanna said the court was not dealing with the merits of the case against Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin, but examining his plea for a limited relief of having the multiple FIRs against him clubbed and heard in one State.

FIRs have been registered against the DMK leader in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar and J&K.

# Cong. sees setback in Telangana MLC polls

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

The ruling Congress has suffered a setback in the just concluded Telangana MLC polls to two Teachers' constituencies and a Graduates' constituency. The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) backed candidates bagged two seats while a Teachers' union candidate won the other seat.

The results should be a wake up call for the Congress party because a battery of Ministers and the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy himself had campaigned for the party backed candidate, Narender Reddy, from the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Graduates' constituency holding three separate meetings last month to garner support for the nominee.

The results would have been different had the main Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) entered the fray. For reasons best known to them, the BRS leadership preferred not to contest the polls.

# Karat slams Cong. over 'neo-fascism' criticism

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLLAM

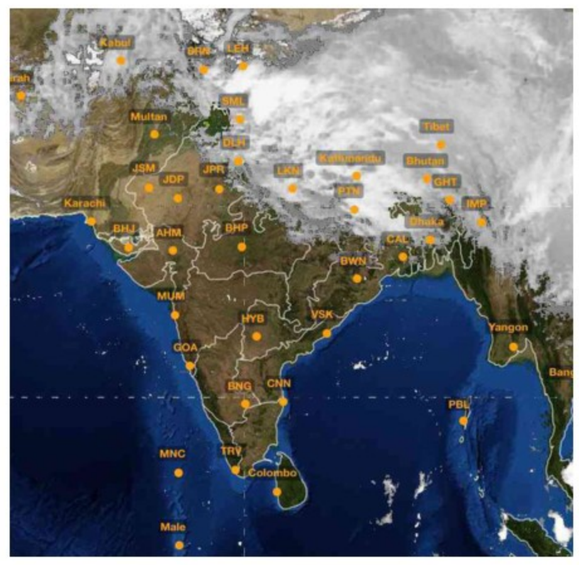
Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] Polit Bureau coordinator Prakash Karat on Thursday sought to slam the Congress for questioning his party's view that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led (BJP) government at the Centre displayed 'neo-fascist characteristics.'

Inaugurating CPI(M)'s State conference in Kerala, he said he was amused to find that Congress leaders in the State who seemed to be experts on fascism, critiquing the use of the term 'neo-fascism' in the CPI (M)'s draft political resolution to describe the tendencies demonstrated by the Union government.

Prakash Karat

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Friday:** Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Hot and humid condition likely at isolated places over Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Kerala and Mahe

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 30.5 | 17.0 | Kozhikode | — | 36.0 | 27.2 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 34.6 | 14.7 | Kurnool | — | 37.7 | 23.1 |
| Aizawl | — | 30.1 | 11.8 | Lucknow | — | 27.3 | 10.0 |
| Allahabad | — | 28.4 | 10.1 | Madurai | — | 38.6 | 22.6 |
| Bengaluru | — | 33.5 | 21.8 | Mangaluru | — | 33.9 | 25.3 |
| Bhopal | — | 30.2 | 10.6 | Mumbai | — | 35.5 | 18.6 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 34.4 | 16.5 | Mysuru | — | 35.0 | 19.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 26.8 | 10.2 | New Delhi | — | 28.4 | 12.2 |
| Chennai | — | 37.7 | 23.2 | Patna | — | 26.6 | 15.0 |
| Coimbatore | — | 37.2 | 24.3 | Port Blair | — | 32.5 | 23.7 |
| Dehradun | — | 26.8 | 8.9 | Puducherry | — | 33.9 | 22.9 |
| Gangtok | 2 | 12.2 | 8.6 | Pune | — | 39.2 | 19.2 |
| Goa | — | 35.0 | 24.0 | Raipur | — | 33.3 | 17.1 |
| Guwahati | — | 28.9 | 13.0 | Ranchi | — | 27.0 | 11.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 38.0 | 19.0 | Shillong | — | 22.0 | 12.0 |
| Hyderabad | — | 34.4 | 16.7 | Shimla | — | 20.3 | 7.8 |
| Imphal | — | 26.2 | 18.0 | Srinagar | — | 15.8 | -0.5 |
| Jaipur | — | 31.0 | 15.7 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 33.0 | 26.1 |
| Kochi | — | 33.4 | 26.8 | Tiruchi | — | 37.8 | 23.0 |
| Kohima | — | 22.0 | 11.2 | Vijayawada | — | 38.4 | 21.0 |
| Kolkata | — | 29.6 | 19.5 | Visakhapatnam | — | 35.1 | 25.1 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .74 | 115 | 20 | 202 | 156 | |
| Bengaluru | 8 | 34 | 38 | 136 | 106 | |
| Chennai | 5 | 9 | 37 | 49 | 104 | |
| Delhi | .26 | 108 | 75 | 91 | 143 | |
| Hyderabad | .20 | .19 | 20 | 107 | 124 | |
| Kolkata | .15 | .87 | 22 | 133 | 130 | |
| Lucknow | .13 | .70 | 53 | 116 | 123 | |
| Mumbai | .10 | .83 | 32 | 172 | 189 | |
| Pune | .19 | 130 | 43 | 223 | 158 | |
| Visakhapatnam | 9 | 50 | 23 | 59 | 106 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 304 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease


ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ತುಮಕೂರು
Email: dhotumkur@gmail.com ph:0816-2278387
No.dht/VS/12/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2025
**Invitation of Tender**
Sub:- About hiring vehicles on outsource basis
The Tender Schedule is as follows under the E-procurement System
Details & Date : 1. Start Date and time for Submitting Tenders 03.03.2025. 2. Last Date and time for Submitting Tenders 18.03.2025, Time.17:30 pm. 3. Teehnical Bid Opening Date and time 19.03.2025, Time.04:00 pm. 4. Tender Opening Authority District Health & Family Welfare Officer Tumkur. 5. E.M.D Value 153,600/- 6. Tender Value: 76.80 Lakhs. For more Information Contact No.9449843064.
Sd/-**DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICER, TUMKUR.**
DIPR/TUM/680/KSMCA/2024-25

**KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079, Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com
No: KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/ UHC/RETND/25/2024_25 Dated: 06.03.2025
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**Ref:** 1. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/EQPT/HFW/UHC/RETND/25/2024_25 (IND0214) Dated: 06/03/2025
Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:
**RETENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SCREEN SEPARATE STAND UNDER UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) PROGRAMME.**
Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06.03.2025.** The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office
**Sd/- Managing Director,** KSMSCL, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO5506/24-25

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL TAXES**
Vanijya Therigegala Karyalaya-1, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru-560 009. Helpline Number: 080-22205239
No: JCCT/HRD/CR-12/2024-25 Date: 28-02-2025
**NOTIFICATION**
The Commercial Taxes Department has released five Video bytes to create awareness about the GST Amnesty Scheme. The tax payers and Stake holders to avail the benefit of GST Amnesty Scheme. The Applicants needs to file separate application for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 to make full payment of tax **before 31-03-2025.** The last date for filing application on the GST Online Portal is **30-06-2025.** The said five GST video bytes are hosted on the departmental website: **gst.kar.nic.in** and also YouTube address ctd.karnataka.
The trade bodies and stake holders are requested to watch and circulate the same among the trading community to create awareness regarding GST Amnesty Scheme.
**Sd/-**
**Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, (Karnataka), Bengaluru.**
DIPR/CP/5405/MAA/2024-25

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**
**HOME DEPARTMENT**
**Tender Call Notice**
No.HOME-BE-APMT1-0010-2018(O) / 10206 / BE, Bhubaneswar, Dated 06/03/2025
Sealed Tenders are invited under two-bid system from reputed and experienced Service Providers **for outsourcing of different services of Odisha Bhawan, Chennai (Reception with Attendant Service, Housekeeping & Room Services, Sweeping & Cleaning and maintenance of auditorium/office/terrace including waste management, Pest Control, Garden Maintenance and Security Services** for a period of **two years** with effect from the date of signing of the agreement on contract basis for maintenance of Odisha Bhawan, Survey No-26/3,Pallikaranai, Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd, Chennai-600100.
The details of the bidding process are as follows:

| Sl.No. | Bidding Schedule | Deadline |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date of Issue | 07.03.2025 |
| 2 | Bid Due Date and Time | 28.03.2025 |
| 3 | Opening of Technical Bid | 03.04.2025 |
| 4 | Opening and Financial Bid | 09.04.2025 |

The interested Agencies are advised to submit two separate sealed envelopes superscribing **"Technical Bid for providing different services to Odisha Bhawan, Survey No-26/3, Pallikaranai, Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd, Chennai-600100,"** and **"Financial Bid for providing services to Odisha Bhawan, Chennai-600100"**. Both sealed envelopes should be kept in a third sealed envelope superscribing **"Tender for providing different services to Odisha Bhawan, Survey No-26/3, Pallikaranai, Velachery -Tambaram Main Rd, Chennai-600100".**
The detailed information for outsourcing the services of the aforesaid works has been given in the tender document which may either be downloaded from the website **www.home.odisha.gov.in** or may be obtained by person from the Office of the Assistant Resident Commissioner-cum-Manager (I/C), Odisha Bhawan, Survey No-26/3, Pallikaranai, Velachery -Tambaram Main Rd, Chennai-600100 on any working day from **07.03.2025 to 28.03.2025 between 11 AM to 4 PM.** (Telephone No.044-29873929)
The tender document will be received through speed post / registered post / courier during office hour. The last date and time for submission of Tender Documents is **28.03.2025 by 5 PM.** The office shall not be responsible for any kind of postal delay.
**Deputy Secretary to Government**

**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
K.R. Pura, Mahadevapura Zone, Bangalore-560036
QTN.No: SAD/Hort/MZ/QP-20/2024-25 Dated: 06-03-25
**INVITATION FOR QUOTATION (IFQ)**
**(Short Term Notification)**
The Senior assistant director of horticulture invites Item Rate Quotation for the works details in the table given below. The bidder may submit quotation for any or all of the works given in the table.
Bidder may get information of schedule of quantities from office of Senior assistant director of horticulture, BBMP Mahadevapura Zone, K.R. Pura.
Bidder must Submit quotation in the form of post physically to office of Senior assistant director of horticulture, BBMP K.R. Pura, Mahadevapura Zone within the date and time published. Quotations will be opened at prescribed time and date, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend at the OFFICE OF THE Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture K.R. Pura. Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP office K.R. Pura Bangalore-560 036.

| S.N. | Name of the work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Water Supplying For parks coming under Mahadevapura constituency of Mahadevapura zone. **Approx. Value of Work**: Rs. 4.98 Lakh. |
| 2 | Water Supplying For parks coming under K.R. Pura constituency of Mahadevapura zone. **Approx. Value of Work**: Rs. 4.98 Lakh. |

**Calendar of events:** 1. Submission of quotation 06-03-25 on wards. 2. Last date submission of quotations on or before at 12-03-25 4.00 PM. 3. Date of opening of quotations is at 13-03-25 11.00 AM onwards. 4. Before submission of quotations, bidders must ensure that all the necessary documents have been attached with quote.
**Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Mahadevapura Zone, KR Pura Division**

Government of Karnataka
**Public Works Department**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Mysuru
**ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
No.08/2024-25(Call-2) DATE: 05.03.2025
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Mysuru. has published item wise short term Tender notification for Building work under the Special division with KW-4 Conditions & regulations. 01 Work with Two cover systems. **Rs. 240.76** Lakhs & EMD amount is **Rs. 3.61 lakhs.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP- Portal (http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from Dt: **06.03.2025 to 20.03.2025.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the office of Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Mysuru on **Dated:17.03.2025 at 12.00 PM**. The Contractor Registered under Class-2 & Above in KPP-Portal may participate for the works as specified in the Notification. More details can be obtained from the office of the under/signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
DIPR/DDMYS/1388/KSMCA/1019/2024-25

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ. # ಜಿ.ಬಿ.–7, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಪಟ್ರೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
Email ID:rchochikballapur@gmail.com, Phone & Fax:08156-295253
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:RCHO/CBP/NHM/BMWM/143/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.03.2025
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**Sub:** E-Tender for Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility for their service of collection, transportation, treatment & disposal of Biomedical Waste for all health facilities at Chikballapura district.
**Ref: (1)** Mission Director (NHM), Bangalore Letter No: HFW/SBMW/SPMU-BMWM-PIP20-21/09/2 2019-20. Date: 06.05.2020.
**(2)** Mission Director (NHM), Bangalore Letter No:BMWM/07/2024-25 Date: 09.02.2024.
**(3)** 2024-25 ROP Approved.
**(4)** CEO, ZP, Chikballapur tender file approval **Date: 03.03.2025**
With reference to above subject, E-Tender for Common Biomedical Waste Treatment
Facility for their service of collection, transportation, treatment & disposal of Biomedical Waste for all
health facilities at Chikballapura district.
**Tender Schedule: (1)** Tender Reference Number: RCHO/CBP/NHM/BMWM/143/2024-25 (Call-2). **(2)** Date of publishing Tender Document on e-Procurement platform: **04.03.2025. (3)** Last date for submission of **tenders:19.03.2025, 5:30pm. (4)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids: **21.03.2025, 11:00am. (5)** Date and time of opening of Financial Bids (If Possible): **24.03.2025, 11:00am. (6)** Place of opening of bids: District Health & Family Welfare Office, Chikballapura. **(7)** Address for communication: District Health & Family Welfare Office, GB-5, Zilladalitha Bhavan, Patrenahalli, Sidlaghatta Road, Chikballapura-562101. **MOB: 9449843191. (8) EMD: Rs.2,46,000/-. (9)**Total Tender Amount: **Rs. 1,23,01200/-. (10)** Pre Bid Meeting: **14.03.2025**
**Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer,Chikkaballapur District, Chikkaballapur**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:405/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through KPP portal only)**
KPTCL invites e-bids for the following works:
No.CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/9860 Date: 04.03.2025
1. **Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE4/2024-25/658, dtd:04.03.2025 for **Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 02 no's of Leakage Current Analyzer/THRC kit for Surge Arrestors required to TL&SS Division Hootagally and N.R. Mohalla (Cluster Division) coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, Mysuru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading."**
No.CEE/TZ/Mys/SEE(O)/AEE-3/Service/24-25/9900 Date: 05.03.2025
2. **Bid Enquiry No**: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-3/ 2024-25/659, dated: 04.03.2025 for **Hiring the service of 3 Nos of drivers for 3 LM Vehicles for various offices coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Mysuru.**
The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the kpp portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL **website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07.03.2025 (Sl. No. 1) & 10.03.2025 (Sl. No. 2)**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
**Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone,** KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, N. R. Mohalla, Mysuru

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.CGM(Tech)/DGM(APCC&PROC)/EE-PRO-1/AEE/2024-25/217-226 Date:06.03.2025
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)**
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following work in against following Enquiry Number:

| Enquiry number/ Name of the Work |
|---|
| KPTCL/2024-25/SS/WORK_INDENT 2136 |
| **Request for Selection of Developers for development of 220 KV Gas Insulated Station (GIS) and Commercial Real Estate on KPTCL Land at Anand Rao Circle , Bengaluru under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.** |

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.03.2025 @ 17:30hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **09.04.2025 @ 17:30hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.
**Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech)., Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.**

# Tyranny of numbers

## Federal principles, democratic impulses are in conflict over delimitation

The call at an all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in Chennai on Wednesday, to freeze the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for 30 years beyond 2026 might seem like pushing away a pressing problem into the distant future. The challenges in 2056, when delimitation is eventually taken up, could be far more complex than those of the last exercise, conducted after the Delimitation Commission was set up in 2002. Even if the northern States bring down the fertility rate to replacement level by that time, the grouse of the southern States, that seat share as a proportion of the total strength of the Lok Sabha will come down, will still not find redress. Moreover, the imbalance in the number of electors across constituencies varies in each State. Between 2004 (the last general election before the 2008 delimitation) and 2024, the country's electorate has grown by approximately 45%. In just over 15 years, there has been significant malapportionment in many constituencies. In Karnataka, Bangalore North has 3.2 million voters, while Udupi Chikmagalur, with an electorate of just under 1.6 million, has less than half that number. One solution, doubtless a partial one, could be to allow delimitation within each State, but not across the country. This would be in keeping with federal principles but might be unfair to large States that have seen a huge, disproportionate population jump over the last 50 years.

The concerns of the southern States regarding a potential unfair outcome are valid. There is a risk of losing significant representation in the Lok Sabha if population strictly governs seat allocation. However, the Constitution recognises that apportionment should be done "so far as practicable", allowing room for considerations beyond mere numbers. Mr. Stalin has expressed apprehension that if the 2026 Census data is used as the basis for delimitation, and Tamil Nadu's seat share is reduced, it would lead to "indelible injustice". The all-party meeting rightly pointed out that Tamil Nadu is not opposed to delimitation per se, but that the process should not penalise progressive States (the entire southern region). Since delimitation has remained a contentious issue, the Union government should build a consensus on the terms of reference for the next Delimitation Commission. A transparent and inclusive approach can help restore the missing trust between the ruling party at the Centre and the non-BJP Opposition. Moreover, those advocating for an early delimitation should respect the Constitution's federal character and demonstrate flexibility in addressing regional concerns.

# Unsettling plans

## Trump seems oblivious to the long-term consequences of his policies

President Donald Trump used the bully pulpit of his first joint address to Congress to emphasise, among other priorities, his administration's intent to up the ante on the trade war that began with the U.S. slamming India, China, Canada and Mexico with tariffs of 25% or higher. Amidst walkouts by numerous Democratic lawmakers, he flagged his administration's 100 executive orders and 400 executive actions to date as proof of his "swift and unrelenting action", including on issues critical to American voters, such as reducing the cost of energy and "working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine". Early on in the speech, Mr. Trump underscored the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris climate accords, WHO and the U.N. Human Rights Council, even as he reiterated his administration's commitment to the mantra of fossil fuel exploitation – "drill, baby, drill" – as the key approach to bringing down energy prices. He also railed against woke culture, specifically focusing on "getting men out of women's sports," as he had promised in his election campaign. In a hat tip to Elon Musk, the boss of the newly founded Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), he claimed that the initiative had already "found hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud". This was notwithstanding shockwaves reverberating across the world from funding cuts and firings at organisations such as USAID, involved in critical projects in numerous countries; and lawsuits aimed at blocking DOGE's access to confidential government data.

On the one hand, it is hardly surprising that Mr. Trump is pushing a conservative agenda, for example through his administration's aggressive drive towards smaller government. On the other, there is a serious question of whether some of his second-term policies risk self-goals. Tariffs are a case in point, as independent economists have argued that higher import costs resulting from increased tariffs could lead importers to pass the economic burden onto consumers through higher prices, driving inflation, contrary to his economic promises. However, this warning has largely fallen on deaf ears among MAGA supporters. Similarly, there is a distinct possibility of the U.S. saving resources and materials of war if it "pauses" military support to Ukraine, yet this strategy does not apparently concern itself with the longer-term, possibly trans-Atlantic, consequences of signalling weakness of defence against Russian territorial ambitions looming over Europe. While the 2024 election revealed the depth of the partisan chasm between sections of American voters over crucial, emotive issues such as immigration, reproductive rights, and the economy, the tone and tenor of the second Trump administration does not instil confidence that this gap might be bridged in four years.

In the run-up to International Women's Day, commentaries on some of the key issues in the gender space, in the print and online editions

# *Women in corporate leadership, the lived reality*

Once again, the world will celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2025 and companies will attempt to showcase steps taken toward the inclusion and the increase of women in the workforce. Yet, the lived reality of women in or trying to enter the corporate workforce is starkly different.

The recent instance of rolling back diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes in the United States federal government, which also encourages the private sector to end DEI preference hirings, highlights the challenges and the barriers to increasing women's participation in the workforce. Women, who comprise 48% of corporate America's workforce, are reeling from the aftershock of this order and are now facing the threat of identity erasure.

**Prachi Dutta**

is a lawyer qualified to practise law in New York and India. She handles Thought Arbitrage Consulting's advisory practice

### A ripple effect

It may be easy to brush aside this order as an issue that plagues only the United States. However, the effects of a dip in DEI hirings and women's exclusion can have severe repercussions in all parts of today's globally connected world. Regardless of where one is situated globally, conversations relating to the participation of women in the corporate workforce are significant.

While DEI may simply be a corporate mechanism to make small inroads into women participation in the workforce, especially at an entry level, at present, even such an entry mechanism has not really increased women's participation in leadership roles. For instance, in India, women have been historically marginalised from the workforce and comprise about 35.9% of the worker population ratio; the number is starker at the senior and middle management levels where women account for only 12.7% leadership roles as of 2024.

It is easy to brush aside DEI as being a fabricated gesture of tokenism, where women placed in companies are viewed as sufferance or an obligation rather than finding a way at the table on their own merit. Of course, while DEI may help women make an in-road into leadership roles in companies and have a semblance of a level playing field, their performance and ability to consolidate their position will depend on their own performance and further normalise the presence of women at all levels of the workforce.

> Policy changes in the United States highlight the challenges and the barriers to increasing women's participation in the corporate workforce; these have global relevance

### The effect of legal mandates

Over the past decade, Indian legal mandates can be credited to help increase the presence of women in the corporate workforce especially at the senior level. In 2014, the Companies Act, 2013 mandated that at-least one-woman director should be placed on the board of certain class of public limited companies, and in 2015, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated that at least one independent woman director be appointed to the board of India's top 1000 listed companies. Thus, it is largely due to a legal mandate that companies are attempting to uphold best practices of gender diversity. The inclusion of women directors on the board of NSE 500 listed companies has increased more than threefold, from 5 % in 2011 to 18% in 2023.

Research across the world finds that organisations also greatly benefit from women in leadership roles. At a fundamental level, the presence of women increases the depth of the talent pool available in the workforce. Women provide informational diversity gained from different educational and career trajectories and distinct social and professional network associations and offer a participative, democratic leadership style that stimulates robust discussion, drives a richer challenge and delivers greater value. Additionally, women tend to focus on relationship building, foster greater stakeholder commitment and assist in formulating strategies that address stakeholder concerns while also overseeing better monitoring, broader human capital management, and communication channels which increase corporate accountability and reduce corporate risks.

When companies have more women in senior management and leadership roles, they begin to appear on lists of the most admired and ethical companies, best companies to work for, and best corporate citizens, thereby also serving the agenda of companies from an optics perspective and feeding into a virtuous cycle of benefits.

Key identified areas where women leaders bring greater dividends are corporate governance, strategic proposition oversight, risk management, shareholder and stakeholder value, gender and society, and environmental responsibility, all of which are important facets of running an efficient and clean corporate ship which contributes to economic parity.

### What real change is

While token participation of women in companies may be a way out for some companies to demonstrate commitment towards gender diversity in the workplace, women are truly effective corporate leaders when they are given actual power and responsibility and not merely appointed to positions as a token for gender diversity or to serve the agenda of their male benefactors. It is only when a greater number of C-Suite/KMPs (top-level executives in an organisation and Key Managerial Personnel, or KMPs) are women, and, in addition, more independent directors and chairpersons of committees of the board and board committees are women, that they are truly effective corporate leaders. Importantly, the remuneration of women that is at parity with their male counterparts is a key indicator that women's presence in the corporate workforce is real and robust.

While we do have a lot to celebrate on the occasion of Women's Day this year, it is important to keep in mind that there are still significant steps that companies and regulators must take in order to ensure that women's participation in the corporate workforce, especially in senior leadership roles, is strong, contributes meaningfully toward corporate governance and is not just a token concept that is aimed at gaining brownie points from stakeholders. Women's participation in the workforce must be promoted for its many benefits and must not fall victim to the dominant political narrative.

End note: The issue of women in the corporate workforce, especially on company boards, is of great significance and merits deep research into various facets. Thought Arbitrage is undertaking such a study which maps the patterns of women on corporate boards by using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies over a 10-year period, involving about 1,000 companies.

# *Beyond 'Beijing', unlocking a feminist future in India*

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is one of the most comprehensive global blueprints for advancing women's rights. India's progress on gender equality stands as a testament to sustained policy efforts, grassroots movements, and the resilience of women and girls.

The Beijing meeting, in 1995, brought together world leaders and 17,000 delegates from 189 countries to agree on a road map to accelerate women's equality through 12 critical "areas of concern". More than 200 Indian women were in attendance along with the Government of India. The areas of concern included poverty reduction, education and training, health, violence against women, women's economic empowerment and influence in decision making. The past three decades have witnessed remarkable strides in many of these dimensions.

**Susan Ferguson**

is the Country Representative for UN Women in India, and is a part of Team UN in India

**Cynthia McCaffrey**

is the Country Representative for UNICEF in India, and is a part of Team UN in India

### Visible evidence of change

The expansion of maternal health care under initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana has increased institutional deliveries to 95%. Maternal mortality has dropped from 130 to 97 deaths per 1,00,000 births between 2014 and 2020 (Sample Registration System data). Today, over half of married women (56.5%) choose to use modern contraceptives, giving them greater control over their reproductive health.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the world's largest government-funded health-care scheme, has provided millions of women with free access to critical medical treatment. Education, a core pillar of the Beijing Platform for Action, has seen notable progress. The 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) initiative has played a pivotal role in improving the child sex ratio and increasing school enrolments for girls.

The National Education Policy 2020 has paved the way for higher retention rates and opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Though safety concerns in higher secondary education remain in some places, the Ministry of Education has integrated education with skills development and life skills training, charting flexible and inclusive pathways for adolescents. UNICEF has been able to provide support in increasing linkages with broader support systems – improved sanitation reducing menstruation related absences.

> As India continues its journey toward gender equality, the Beijing Platform for Action remains a guiding framework

Women's economic empowerment has been central to India's gender-equality agenda. Through the National Rural and Urban Livelihood Missions, nearly 100 million women have been connected to financial networks via self-help groups, fostering entrepreneurship and financial independence. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionised financial transactions, with women increasingly using digital platforms for savings and investments.

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission has empowered over 100 million rural women through access to credit, livelihood opportunities, and financial literacy programmes. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan has trained over 35 million rural women in digital literacy, ensuring that they are not left behind in the digital revolution. Bridging the digital gender divide has helped women participate in the digital economy.

India has increasingly financed women's empowerment through gender-responsive budgeting. The share of the Gender Budget in the total national Budget has increased from 6.8% in 2024-25 to 8.8% in 2025-26; $55.2 billion is allocated toward gender-specific programmes. UN Women has been able to provide support for these government efforts.

### The shadow of violence

Gender-based violence remains a challenge. The Beijing Declaration called for ending violence against women, yet many women still face violence, here and across the world. The establishment of 770 One Stop Centres has provided essential medical, legal, and psychological support to survivors of violence. The introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, which came into effect in July 2024, strengthens legal protections and improves women's safety and justice.

The country's efforts to eliminate harmful practices and strengthen responses include many innovations – a blockchain-based system in Odisha ensures that survivors receive swift, confidential, and coordinated support. Partnerships such as the one between the United Nations Population Fund and the Rajasthan Police Academy, have enhanced gender-responsive policing, building survivor trust, and expanding access to justice.

A powerful force for change lies in the leadership of young women. From climate action to digital entrepreneurship, young leaders are redefining gender.

Initiatives such as the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) project, which promotes women in STEM, and the G20 TechEquity platform, which has trained thousands of young women in emerging technologies, showcase their potential.

Women have played a pivotal role in India's transformation, driving change, from technology and entrepreneurship to governance and social development. The Women's Reservation Bill, which guarantees 33% legislative representation, builds on local governance successes that have empowered close to 1.5 million women leaders, the largest cohort of women political leaders in the world.

### A guiding framework

The 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration reinforces that gender equality is not just a women's issue. It is a global imperative. India's progress has been propelled by strong government leadership and capable partners, both local and global. Strengthening collaborations, investing in young women's leadership, and addressing systemic barriers will be key to accelerating action and progress.

The Beijing Platform for Action remains a guiding framework as India continues its journey toward gender equality.

With an unwavering commitment to women-led development, financial inclusion, and social transformation, India is setting a global benchmark for inclusive and sustainable growth – one that is needed in the world today, now more than ever.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**India and quality research**

I write this as an INSA Senior Scientist and Adjunct Professor, National Institute for Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. I was also a former Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar. This is with reference to the report, "India to go past U.S. in scientific publications by 2029, says Minister" (Inside pages, March 1). Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh, while quoting the Publication of National Science Board of USA on science and engineering (S and E) indicators, claims that India will go past the U.S. in scientific publications by 2029. He makes this prediction based on Table PBS-1 of the NSB which lists the number of S and E publications from 2012 to 2022, which is based on the Scopus database assessed in April 2023. I wish to highlight the point that the scholarly output of India's total publications in all disciplines including S and E for 2024 based on Clarivate (In Cites) as on February 25, 2025, stands at 1,91,703 and the corresponding number of publications for the U.S. is 6,48,905. With such a staggering lead, I wonder how India can surpass the U.S. by 2029. How realistic is the Minister's prediction? The Minister appears to be silent on the average quality of publications from India. Further, Clarivate depicts the CNCI value (indicator of quality of publications) for Indian publications at just 0.879 in contrast to values of 1.12 and 1.25 for China and the U.S. Out of 30 countries, India is ranked 28 with respect to the CNCI value. I appeal to the Minister to determine the root cause for the poor quality of Indian publications rather than dwelling on the quantity of our publications.

**M.K. Surappa,**
Bengaluru

**An opportunity**

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to threaten and impose higher tariffs on India from April 2 should push India to reduce its dependence on the U.S. and explore other markets. Instead of relying on protective nets, Indian industries must become globally competitive. Instead of fearing Trump's tariff hikes, India should turn this into an opportunity by diversifying its imports, improving its manufacturing quality, and expanding into new markets. India must strengthen its position as a major industrial country.

**Gopalaswamy J.,**
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

# *Is Artificial Intelligence affecting critical thinking skills?*

PARLEY

**Arun Kumar Tangirala**

Professor Chemical Engineering, IIT Tirupati, and Professor, Wadhwani School of Data Science and AI, IIT Madras

**Arul George Scaria**

Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are increasingly being used in classrooms around the world. Last month, British universities were warned to "stress-test" all assessments after new research revealed that "almost all" undergraduates are using generative AI (GenAI) in their studies. Last year, a study by TeamLease EdTech revealed that over 61% of educators in India are using AI tools. All this has given rise to fears that students will likely begin accepting information at face value rather than critically analysing it. Does the use of AI in education affect critical thinking skills? Arun Kumar Tangirala and Arul George Scaria discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sai Charan**. Edited excerpts:

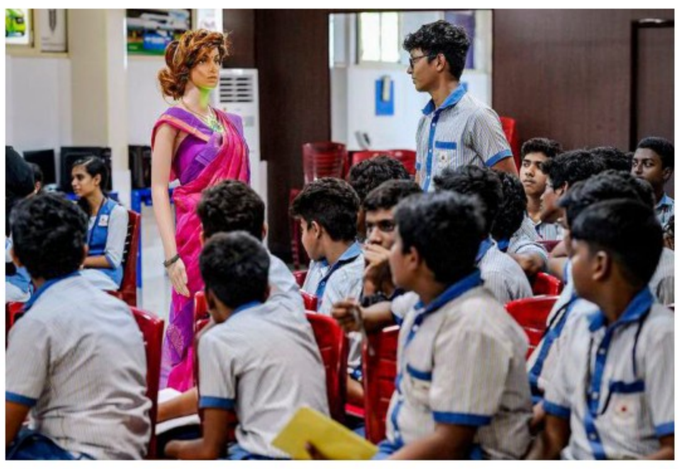
**Should AI be permitted in college classrooms? If yes, to what extent?**

**Arun Kumar Tangirala:** Yes, AI should be permitted. As it has pervaded every aspect of our lives, it is not a good idea to prohibit it. Even if you were to prohibit it, students will use it because it has pervaded every home and device.

The extent to which it should be used and who should be using it in the classroom is contextual. It would depend on whether I am teaching a coding course, a technical course, a science course, or a humanities course. For example, if my aim is to impart cognitive skills, I would use AI minimally. But if I am teaching coding, it would be different. There has been a shift in skill sets in the industry. The ability to code is not necessarily the primary skill; the ability to evaluate and validate a code is more or less the evolving skill. So I would use AI, because everybody uses AI to generate codes. But it is important to make sure that the students use AI in an ethical and responsible way.

There are no government regulations on usage yet. So institutes and instructors have to form their own rules, declare these clearly at the beginning of the course, and also explain why they are imposing these. As long as things are done in a systematic, informed, ethical, and responsible manner, AI should be allowed.

**Arul George Scaria:** It is nearly impossible and perhaps even futile to prohibit AI in classrooms. Whether we like it or not, that is the reality. We might have to change our teaching and learning approaches according to this changing scenario because AI is also getting more and more integrated into many of the applications we use daily. For example, Copilot is getting integrated into Microsoft Word. Even when you open Adobe Reader, it suggests providing an AI-generated summary.



India's first AI teacher 'Iris' interacts with students at a school at Attingal in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. PTI

When we talk about AI usage in classrooms, we have to also understand that it is not just students who are using AI; teachers are using it too. School administrators want to bring AI into the classroom and many policymakers believe that there should be greater use of AI in education. But in all these contexts, ethical and responsible AI usage policies are required. AI is helpful in many ways, but it is also a tool that needs to be used cautiously for a wide variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, issues such as potential biases in responses.

The decision on the extent of use should be clearly guided by the learning objectives of the courses. When I teach a comparative copyright law course in collaboration with Professor William Fisher at the Harvard Law School, one of the assignments I give to the students is to use different AI platforms to generate potentially copyright infringing materials. Through this hands-on experience, the students get a better picture of the diverse issues in this particular area. They even get a better sense of whether it is possible to prevent generation of potentially copyright infringing materials and what kind of steps have been put in place by firms in this regard. So we need to evolve general guidelines for all stakeholders in an educational institution, but let the specific approaches for each course be developed as per the learning objectives of those courses.

**Courses are being developed with AI. In that case, do you think AI will slowly be seen as a critical part of infrastructure?**

**AKT:** Yes. AI is going to be integral to every type of operation in an academic institution, company, or any other organisation. Therefore, preparations have to be underway in order to integrate AI in a seamless manner. A report published by the World Economic Forum not only throws light on the future skills required, but also on how institutions should realign themselves. The Future of Jobs Report 2025, published in January, showed that the top skills that learners require are analytical and cognitive thinking, AI related skills, social connection, adaptability, etc. Programming skills are lower down the list. If you compare it with earlier reports, the big difference you see is the arrival of AI and related skills. If AI-related skills have to be acquired, not only by the users, but also by employees, it has to be integrated into the infrastructure. But there has to be a secure way of doing this. Unlike a calculator or a computer, AI tools such as Chat GPT, Perplexity, and other LLM models that you are using take your data and broadcast it back to the server, which means that your own personal and confidential information could be at stake if it is not integrated properly. Every user has to be trained and made aware of the benefits and side effects.

> We need to educate everyone on how to be responsible AI users, particularly by understanding the limitations of the technology
>
> **ARUL GEORGE SCARIA**

**AGS:** AI is becoming critical infrastructure in many different ways. The government and other stakeholders need to be mindful of this and take appropriate measures for regulation. For example, many State governments suggest adopting AI in schools. But has there been a safety audit of the AI tools that have been suggested for incorporation in these schools? Has there been an audit on the potential biases that might exist in the system? With respect to the training data, are we demanding disclosure? Are we mindful of the impacts?

**With AI here to stay, do you think we should accept it in a regulated manner rather than being critical about it?**

**AKT:** There is apprehension and fear about the usage of AI. But we should start using it. For a long time, I also desisted and my reason for using it was to really experience what the fears are about. There is no point in imagining what may happen. Start using AI in a limited way, and experience the benefits and the possible risks. Do it the way you would with an automobile.

The difference is that for automobiles, we have excellent regulations. For AI, it will take time. There are countries saying forget about regulations for now, because that is going to hamper the growth of this technology. I disagree. While technology is evolving, discussions on regulation should also be happening. The European Union has been active in that respect. In India, there are more and more discussions happening now, but it will take some time for actual regulations to kick in.

**AGS:** It is clear that the state might take some time to frame regulations. To me, it is vital that every university initiates dialogues among faculty members and students on responsible AI usage. This will help in evolving appropriate and ethical usage guidelines as per the needs of the institution. We cannot have universal rules, but at least some general guidelines can be evolved at the institutional level. The most prominent global universities have a general AI policy and they have also left it to the faculty to frame specific policies with respect to their courses. That is the only way forward now.

**There are concerns that students may become overly dependent on AI-generated responses. Are these valid?**

**AKT:** It's true; many teachers fear this. I don't think it is a valid fear. It depends on what skills we want to impart. An academic institution has its own goals apart from preparing students for employment. Those goals may include training students to think deeply and in a scholarly manner. But at the same time, we need to be practical. We have to train our students so that they get jobs, not necessarily scholarly ones, but where they can implement what they have learned. So, in any course, we will probably have to ask to what extent we want to impart critical thinking skills vis-a-vis practical skills.

**AGS:** I have a slightly different perspective. At a broader level, I fear that we are currently seeing an over-dependence on AI-generated responses among students and sometimes even among many faculty members. So we need to educate everyone on how to be responsible AI users, particularly by understanding the limitations of the technology. This might even require re-imagining many components of our education. Maybe the kind of technology which we are talking about here can have more negative impacts if we indiscriminately adopt it. Over time, AI technologies may also be more mature. But as it stands now, my fear is that most of the time, people are overlooking the limitations of technology.

To listen to the full interview
**Scan the code or go to the link**
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

# *When an officer from the CMO asked for a journalist's source*

## Every observation and interaction with Jayalalithaa was instructive

**T. Ramakrishnan**

Recently, several prominent personalities paid tributes to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on her 77th birth anniversary. I had followed Jayalalithaa's public life from the beginning. She, like me, was also once a resident of T. Nagar, a shopper's paradise in Chennai.

Every observation and interaction yielded new discoveries. On May 16, 2011, when she was sworn in as Chief Minister for the third time, I saw how strongly she could express herself without saying a word. When I bent forward to give my visiting card to her at the Chief Minister's chamber at Fort St George, the seat of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Secretariat, a police constable tried to push me gently. The way she stared at the constable is still fresh in my memory.

However, in 2001, when Jayalalithaa returned to power, her equation with the media was anything but cordial. Her government began to file defamation cases against the press. By September 2003, her establishment had filed 15 defamation complaints against *The Hindu*, apart from having initiated breach of privilege proceedings in the Assembly against the newspaper for three reports and an editorial titled 'Rising intolerance'.

Back then, I had done some research and calls for a story that I thought was harmless. The story was about the Tamil Nadu government's decision to construct a check dam to augment water supply to Chennai. Tamil Nadu, like many other parts of the country, was reeling under a long spell of acute water shortage. Chennai, which largely depends on rainfall to quench its thirst, was affected badly. Any news report on water caught public attention then, as it invariably appeared on the front page. My story, too, appeared on page 1 of *The Hindu* on July 26, 2001.

But Jayalalithaa had a different opinion. Her objection was not to the core part of the story, but to the penultimate para, which said that she would meet Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Hyderabad on August 3 to seek more Krishna water, which had become an important source for Chennai from 1996.

I didn't know this until the next day when, at around 8 a.m., I received a call on my landline at home from an IAS officer, who told me to be prepared to receive a call from another officer attached to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). The other officer came on the line. Speaking in a soft tone, he broached the matter regarding the Chief Minister's proposed visit to Hyderabad and asked me to reveal my source. I was stumped. The officer added that only a few people knew about her trip. I replied to him that he, being the representative of an "all-mighty government", was wasting his time and energy by talking toa "lowly mortal." He abruptly cut the call. I told the Chief of the News Bureau, V. Jayanth, about the call.

Later that day, the CMO issued a statement denying that Jayalalithaa would meet Mr. Naidu on August 3. It added that in the event of such a trip being planned, the news would be given to everyone. It became clear to me that Jayalalithaa first wanted to make public any "positive news" about her or her government's measures. When Mr. Jayanth came across the press release, he thought of mentioning in the copy about the CMO's denial, the conversation that I had had with the officer from the CMO. However, on second thoughts, he dropped it, unwilling to precipitate matters.

My source remained in the position for more than two years. The officer who called me also stayed at the CMO for two years. While I always remembered the episode, forever smarting from the fact that I had been asked to reveal my source, he had forgotten about it. I met him in 2013 at a public function and reminded him about the call. When his turn came that day to give a talk, he welcomed me and even referred to the phone conversation. Jayalalithaa was still in power at that time.

*ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in*

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

## Birds of a feather

Pelicans and painted storks moving around at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam. Their cages were destroyed in cyclone Hudhud in 2014. K.R. DEEPAK

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** MARCH 7, 1975

## Arab guerillas die in Tel Aviv hotel shootout

Tel Aviv, March 6: Israeli troops smashed a hotel siege "by Arab guerillas yesterday in a battle that left 14 dead – seven terrorists, four hostages and three Israeli soldiers," the Israeli command said.

After a day of confusion and various official announcements on casualties and hostages, Maj. Gen. Shlomo Gazit, Chief of Military Intelligence, put the final death toll at 14. One guerilla was taken alive.

"The eight guerillas stormed ashore late last night, grabbed hostages and shot their way into the cheap Savoy Hotel on the road to Jaffa, Tel Aviv's neighbouring Israeli Arab township.

Some reports said as many as 40 hostages were held throughout the night until Israeli troops burst into the building at dawn in a crescendo of gunfire and explosions.

The Israeli attack was thought to have ended the drama – the first of its kind experienced by Tel Aviv. x

But fresh firing broke out at about noon as troops combed the hotel and surrounding area.

In a brief flurry of fighting one guerilla was overpowered and captured alive and another was shot dead.

The Israeli Military Command said some of the hostages were killed in an explosion set off by the guerillas.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** MARCH 7, 1925

## Burma war memorial

Rangoon, March 5: H.E. the Governor unveiled the Burma War Memorial this evening in the presence of an influential gathering. The memorial is in the form of an obelisk about fifty feet high standing in the centre of a circular platform 60 feet in diameter. Near the top of the obelisk is a bronze band with a wreath facing the roadway and at its messine base are four bronze inscription plates facing the east being inscribed: "For the glorious dead 1914-18" while others give in English, Burmese and Hindi a list of the Units which left Burma on war service. The design is simple and the monument military in its character with no religious emblems.

## From Page One

## ‘Many of Trump’s priorities work for India’

The statement also refers to other current and future connectivity initiatives, such as the newly announced Indian Ocean Strategic Venture.

On energy, Mr. Jaishankar said India welcomed Mr. Trump’s actions that would keep energy prices stable and affordable. Mr. Trump is a strong proponent of fossil fuels and is changing U.S. policy to drill for more petroleum and natural gas.

The Trump administration’s emphasis on the development of technology and its use “as a game changer in global politics” offered a lot of possibilities, according to Mr. Jaishankar.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in Washington DC, to discuss a trade deal with the Trump administration, a fact that Mr. Jaishankar brought up. India-U.S. relations are at probably their best, Mr. Jaishankar said.

“So we have absolutely no interest in undermining the dollar at all,” he said, adding that the problem in India’s region was the lack of availability of the dollar. Mr. Jaishankar was asked about the internationalisation of the rupee and whether India supported the U.S. dollar as the world’s reserve currency. He said that the government was promoting the internationalisation of the rupee as part of the effort to promote the globalisation of India. He cited a growth in India’s trade, external investments and Indian tourists abroad. Sometimes there was a lack of hard currency, especially the dollar, necessitating the use of trade settlements, or a need for cashless payments between India and other countries, the Minister said.

Later in the discussion, Mr. Jaishankar said the dollar was the source of international economic stability and, right now, there is a need for stability.

In February, Mr. Trump had threatened at least 100% tariffs on BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries if they wanted “to play games with the dollar”. The BRICS countries have a diversity of views on the dollar, Mr. Jaishankar said. “The assumption that somewhere there’s a united BRICS position against the dollar, I think, is not borne out by facts,” he said.

## ‘If Pakistan vacates PoK, J&K issue will be solved’

“Restoring growth and economic activity and social justice in Kashmir was step number two,” he said. “Holding elections, which were done with a very high turnout, was step number three. I think the part we are waiting for is the return of the stolen part of Kashmir, which is under illegal Pakistani occupation. When that’s done, I assure you, Kashmir [is] solved,” he said.

The discussion host, Chatham House chief executive Bronwen Maddox, suggested there were a number of questions on Kashmir as well as human rights. Earlier in the day, the House of Commons held a debate on “Government support for human rights in Jammu and Kashmir”, led by Labour MP Sarah Smith. Asked if the Indian government acknowledges some of its shortcomings on human rights, Mr. Jaishankar said the government had, for political reasons, been at the receiving end of campaigns around human rights. “There can be situations which require redressal and remedy,” he said. “I think any sort of sweeping concern on human rights is really misplaced. I don’t see justification for it at all,” he added.

Mr. Jaishankar had, earlier in the discussion, referred to the idea of equal delivery of benefits for all Indian citizens – a concept he has used before to defend the government record on human rights. In some parts of the world there was a politics that was driven by “creating” and “pandering to” identity politics, the Minister said.

Good politics was about “treating your citizens equally”, he argued. Concerns raised by Indian citizens, organisations within and outside India, and foreign governments, however, have been larger in scope and on topics other than the delivery of benefits.

## ‘Unblock *Vikatan* site once it removes cartoon’

He said that no damage had been caused to the sovereignty and integrity of the country and that no harm had befallen upon the friendly relations between India and the United States due to the cartoon published on February 10.

Stating that this was a serious issue involving journalistic freedom and the right to free speech, he said world-over, magazines publish cartoons of political leaders but they do not get subjected to such harsh measures.

On his part, Additional Solicitor-General AR.L. Sundaresan highlighted that both Article 19(2) of the Constitution and Section 69A of the IT Act list issues affecting “foreign relations” as a reason for which public access to information could be blocked. He vehemently contended that the cartoon showing the Prime Minister shackled in chains during a meeting with the U.S. President would definitely affect relations with that country.

He also said that granting an interim stay of the Ministry’s order would amount to allowing the magazine’s writ petition itself even before the Ministry could file a detailed counter affidavit. He brought to the notice of the court that a committee appointed by the Ministry had clearly stated that public access to the website could be allowed if the magazine removed the offending cartoon voluntarily.

# 26/11 accused says he will be tortured if sent to India

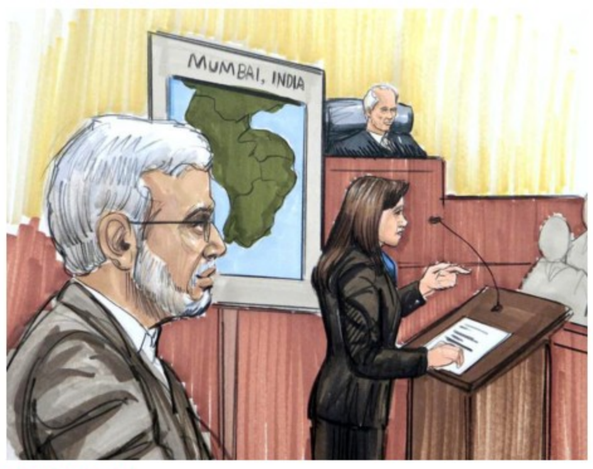
Tahawwur Rana’s plea says his ‘severe medical conditions’ would render his extradition a ‘de facto’ death sentence; the likelihood of torture is higher since he is a Muslim of Pakistani origin, it adds

**Press Trust of India**
NEW YORK

Mumbai terror attacks accused Tahawwur Rana has moved an “emergency application” with the U.S. Supreme Court against his extradition to India, claiming that he will be tortured in India since he is a Muslim of Pakistani origin.

Mr. Rana, 64, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, is currently lodged in a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles. He is known to be associated with the Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 attacks.

Last month, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that his administration approved the extradition of “very evil” Mr. Rana, wanted by Indian probe agencies for his role in the 26/11 attacks, “to face justice in India”. This followed the rejection of his review petition by the Supreme Court in January.




**Serving time:** Tahawwur Rana is currently lodged in a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles. AP

Now, Rana is seeking a stay on his extradition and surrender to India pending litigation (including exhaustion of all appeals) on the merits of a petition he filed on February 13. In that petition, Mr. Rana argued that his extradition to India violates United States law and the United Nations Convention Against Torture “because there are substantial grounds for believing that, if extradited to India, petitioner will be in danger of being subjected to torture”. “The likelihood of torture in this case is even higher though as petitioner faces acute risk as a Muslim of Pakistani origin charged in the Mumbai attacks,” the application said.

**‘Health issues’**

It also said that his “severe medical conditions” render extradition to Indian detention facilities, a “de facto” death sentence.

It cited medical records from July 2024 showing that he has multiple “acute and life-threatening diagnoses”, including multiple documented heart attacks, Parkinson’s disease with cognitive decline, a mass suggestive of bladder cancer, stage 3 chronic kidney disease, and a history of chronic asthma, and multiple COVID-19 infections.

“Accordingly, petitioner certainly has raised a credible, if not compelling, factual case that there are indeed substantial grounds for believing he would be in danger of torture if surrendered to Indian authorities. Further, because of his Muslim religion, his Pakistani origin, his status as a former member of the Pakistani Army, the relation of the putative charges to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and his chronic health conditions he is even more likely to be tortured than otherwise would be the case, and that torture is very likely to kill him in short order,” the application said.

# Two of three Indians executed in February by UAE buried: MEA

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

Shabbir Khan, father of Shahzadi Khan

Two Indian nationals executed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February for murder were buried in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. A third Indian was also executed the same month, the UAE has informed India.

Officials of the Indian Embassy in the UAE were present at the burial of Shahzadi Khan of Uttar Pradesh and Mohammed Rinash Arangilottu of Kerala. The third Indian, Muraleedharan Perumthatta Valappilm, also from Kerala, was convicted of murdering an Indian national. His last rites are awaited.

Shahzadi Khan’s family members could not attend her burial but “authorised representatives” of the family were present, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Mohammed’s family members were present, it added. While Khan was executed after being accused of murdering a child, Mohammed was convicted of killing an Emirati national.

Earlier on Monday, the MEA informed the Delhi High Court that 33-year-old Khan was executed on February 15, which the UAE authorities conveyed to the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi on February 28. The family of Khan was subsequently informed by the MEA about the execution.

Her case drew attention because of the nature of the crime that she was accused of. Sources said she was accused of murdering the infant of an Indian couple, Nazia and Faiz, who were also her employers.

The execution of three Indians within a month is being considered a rare occurrence in the Gulf where a large number of Indian nationals are employed.

## ED powers: SC to reconsider its verdict next month

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would decide in April if its 2022 verdict upholding the Enforcement Directorate’s powers to arrest and attach property under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act needs reconsideration.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh said a three-judge Bench was to hear the matter, and it was wrongly listed before it.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, agreed and asked the Bench to post the hearing in late April or the first week of May.

# First CDS visit to Australia boosts cooperation on ‘shared priorities’

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan’s visit to Australia has advanced cooperation on “shared priorities and interoperability, including in maritime domain awareness, reciprocal information sharing, and deployments from each other’s territories,” the Australian Defence Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

This is the first visit to Australia by an Indian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Gen. Chauhan was hosted in Canberra by Admiral David Johnston, the Chief of the Defence Force of Australia.

“Discussions focused on practical ideas to realise both nations’ long-term vision of a defence and security collaboration that enhances collective strength and contributes to both countries’ security,” the Australian statement said.

**Defence heads:** Gen. Anil Chauhan with Adm. James Lybrand during his visit to the Australian Defence College on Wednesday. PTI

India is a top-tier security partner for Australia, with both countries committed to working together to promote a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, the statement said. The two countries have established a strong tempo of exercises and activities across maritime, land and air domains, working through the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership and as trilateral and quadrilateral partners, it added.

The visit underlines the value of Australia’s defence partnership with India, Adm. Johnston said in the statement. “We are committed to working closely with our Indian partners to enhance our interoperability, strengthen people-to-people links, and further cooperation with key partners to promote regional stability and security,” he said.

## CISF to recruit up to 20,000 personnel annually: D-G

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

The Central Industrial Security Force is set to recruit between 15,000 and 20,000 personnel annually over the next few years, to increase its capacity to cover more facilities, Director-General Rajwinder Singh Bhatti said in Chennai on Thursday.

He further said CISF cover for airports in Navi Mumbai, Lengpui in Mizoram, Jewar in Noida, Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, among others, were “under consideration”.

Addressing the annual press conference ahead of the CISF’s Raising Day celebrations, Mr. Bhatti said the force was expanding by about 10% annually. While the recruitment of around 14,000 personnel was completed recently, recruitment for 17,000 more was under way.

**Language issue**

Meanwhile, senior officers of the force said as per the posting policy, 60% of the personnel posted in airports were drawn from the Sector or State where the facility was located, amid concerns over language issues faced by the public. The officials also assured that language balance in this regard would be improved.

The CISF’s Southern Sector covers five States – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, besides the Union territory of Puducherry. At airports in the sector, about 60% of personnel would be from the same State, they said.

## *INSV Tarini* with two women Navy officers leaves Port Stanley

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

*INSV Tarini* left Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands Tuesday at about 9.10 a.m. local time for its onward journey to Cape Town, the Navy said in a statement on Thursday.

The sailing vessel is on the fourth leg of an ongoing global circumnavigation by two women Indian Navy officers, Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa, under the ‘Navika Sagar Parikrama-II’ expedition.

*INSV Tarini* arrived at Port Stanley on February 18. During the stay, the vessel’s crew undertook repairs and maintenance of the boat to address defects that occurred during the most treacherous leg of their journey – passing through Drake’s Passage.

**Smooth sailing:** the vessel is on the fourth leg of an ongoing global circumnavigation. PTI

## All selections of employees for promotions in Group-C category cancelled: Railways

**S. Vijay Kumar**
CHENNAI

The Indian Railways has cancelled all departmental selections of employees for promotions within the Group-C category for which results have not been published as on Tuesday.

Admitting several irregularities in the departmental selections held in the recent past, the Railways decided to revisit the entire framework of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) and General Departmental Competitive Examinations.

“Further instructions to regulate the selections will be issued in due course,” the Railway Board said in an order to General Managers of all Zonal Railways.

According to sources, employees serving in subordinate ranks across departments can be selected for higher grade posts in Group-C category through LDCE which has a quota varying between 30% to 70% depending upon vacancies. Once appointed to Group-C, they would become eligible for further selection for officer category posts in Group-B.

The decision of the Railways to cancel LDCE/GDCE selections comes a day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) exposed question paper leak in East Central Railway at Mughal Sarai. At least 17 candidates who had applied for the post of Chief Loco Inspector were found to be possession of hand written question papers.

Acting on specific information, CBI officials conducted searches at three places and intercepted the 17 candidates who had allegedly paid money to get copies of the exam’s question papers.

## Former CJI, Salve set to appear before JPC

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee reviewing the legislation on simultaneous elections, in its next meeting scheduled for March 11, has called former Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Rajya Sabha member Ranjan Gogoi as one of the witnesses, along with renowned advocate Harish Salve.

The committee headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024. The Bill seeks to empower the Election Commission to conduct simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies.

In its last meeting, the panel had heard views of another former CJI, U.U. Lalit, who had said that the Bill in its present form will not be able to sustain a legal challenge.

**APPEAL**

**Gautam Barman,** Hospital No.MH015716665, 9 Months old son of Gopal Barman admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart disease, Tetralogy of Fallot with severe Cyanosis, large PM Malaligned VSD shunting BD, Subvalvar Infundibular Narrowing, Rvot Gradient, Confluent Branch PAS, IAS Aneurysmal with Fenestrated Secundum ASDs L-R, RA, RV Dilated, Mild TR, left ARC. He was advised to undergo early total correction. The baby would need further ICU care for 2 to 3 weeks and the estimated cost is Rs.6,00,000/-.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Gautam Barman, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi.** All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

## BSP is being controlled by BJP, says Cong. leader

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Udit Raj on Thursday said Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati had sacked her nephew Akash Anand under pressure from the Bharatiya Janata Party since he had called for an alliance of the BSP with the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

At a press conference, Mr. Raj, who heads the Dalit, OBC, Minorities and Adivasi (DOMA) Confederation, said the BSP, which started as a movement before becoming a political party, had now been "BJPised". He invited Mr. Anand to join the Congress.

The Congress leader said that BSP twice making Mr. Anand the party coordinator and then removing him showed that the party was being "controlled by the BJP". "Mayawati*ji* would not have taken such a suicidal step without pressure... Akash Anand had said that there should be an alliance with the Congress-SP in the upcoming Assembly election, otherwise we will remain zero. This has troubled the BJP internally."

# Pro-Khalistan protester breaches security at Jaishankar's London event

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson condemns incident, calling upon the U.K. to live up to its diplomatic obligations; U.K. says such attempts to intimidate, threaten, or disrupt public events are completely unacceptable and it remains committed to ensuring security of all diplomatic visitors

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

A pro-Khalistani protester rushed in front of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's car as he was leaving an event in London on Wednesday night. The Minister had just engaged in an hour-long discussion focused on India and the changing world order, as part of his visit to the U.K. to open consulates and develop the bilateral relationship.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson condemned the incident, calling upon the U.K. to live up to its diplomatic obligations.

"We condemn the provocative activities of this small group of separatists and extremists. We deplore the misuse of democratic freedoms by such elements. We expect the host government in such cases to fully live up to their diplomatic obligations," the spokesperson for the MEA said.

In video footage posted on social media, the protester can be seen shouting "Khalistan" and tearing a cloth with the colours of the Indian flag when he approaches the front of Mr. Jaishankar's SUV. The individual and a few others are seen standing apart from a larger group of protesters gathered across the road, holding yellow "Khalistan" flags, opposite the entrance to Chatham House in St. James' Square, where the Minister's event was being held.

The protesters had gathered earlier and were shouting slogans. The individual in question was not behind a security barricade like the other protesters, presumably because he was holding a cloth that resembled the Indian flag.

When the protester rushed in front of Mr. Jaishankar's car, the Minister was already seated at the back and a man who appeared to be a security officer was seen getting into the front seat. Three police officers rushed to the protester and took him back across the road.

Khalistan supporters outside the venue where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated in a discussion in London. ANI

**'Unacceptable action'**

The U.K. on Thursday strongly condemned the breach, saying such attempts to "intimidate, threaten, or disrupt" public events are "completely unacceptable".

"We strongly condemn the incident that took place outside Chatham House yesterday (Wednesday) during the External Affairs Minister's visit to the U.K.," a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spokesperson said.

"While the U.K. upholds the right to peaceful protest, any attempts to intimidate, threaten, or disrupt public events are completely unacceptable. The Metropolitan Police acted swiftly to address the situation, and we remain fully committed to ensuring the security of all our diplomatic visitors, in line with our international obligations," the spokesperson said.

A Met Police spokesperson added: "As the Minister left the event, a protester ran in front of his stationary car waving a flag... He was quickly intercepted by officers and moved out of the way. He did not get close to the Minister who was able to leave the area without further incident. There were no arrests."

**2023 incident**

Security for Indian officials and India's physical assets in the U.K. had become flashpoints in the bilateral relationship, with things reaching a head in March 2023, when Khalistani separatists took down the national flag from the front facade of the Indian High Commission in London and attacked the property.

The British High Commissioner to India (Alex Ellis) at the time was summoned by the Indian government and security for him and the British High Commission in New Delhi was diminished in what appeared to be retaliation by the government.

After assurances from London were issued and police officers were permanently stationed outside the High Commission, Mr. Jaishankar visited London in November 2023 to give the relationship a boost.

Power changed hands from the Conservatives to Labour in July 2024 – after a period of 14 years. With that came the promise of a further reset as the Labour Party had declared that it would change its relationship with the government and Indian Britons, whose support for the party was waning, over the party's positions on the Modi government's policies, especially around Kashmir.

The British government has been pulling out all the stops for the Minister on this visit, with Mr. Jaishankar and his wife Kyoko Jaishankar spending time with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy and his wife Nicola Green on a working retreat at the Foreign Secretary's official country residence, Chevening House, in Kent. Mr. Jaishankar also met with Prime Minister Keir Starmer (he had met with former U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during his November 2023 visit).

*(With PTI inputs)*

## 'Cautiously optimistic about FTA talks with U.K.'

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday that he was "cautiously optimistic" that the pace of the free trade agreement (FTA) talks with the U.K. would improve soon.

India and the U.K. are currently discussing an FTA with talks that began in 2022, being relaunched last month under the Keir Starmer government.

"With the EU, we are into our third decade [of trade negotiations]... it's not an experience I recommend to anybody else," he said. Mr. Jaishankar said there was no "big boulder" in the negotiations that had to be moved out of the way (i.e., no single, large sticking point) and countered what he had read in the press about visas being a block to concluding the trade deal. He said the only visas under discussion were visas for intra-corporate (i.e., within company) transferees.

Concluding the FTA with the U.K. would have an impact beyond trade, said Mr. Jaishankar, adding it would encourage people to explore opportunities in education and nuclear energy.

## India, T.N. must help protect livelihood of fisher folk in north Sri Lanka: Colombo

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

"The governments of India and Tamil Nadu must take decisive action against illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters to ensure that the livelihoods of northern Sri Lankan fishermen are protected," Sri Lankan Minister Bimal Rathnayake told Parliament, as the enduring Palk Bay fisheries conflict came under sharp focus in the island nation.

Bimal Rathnayake

Intervening in the House on Wednesday, Mr. Rathnayake, who is Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation and Leader of the House, said Sri Lanka has greatly appreciated the thoughtful assistance from India and Tamil Nadu during the years of war, by protecting people who fled to India, and the more recent support during the economic crisis and floods.

"The real help, however, will be to help protect our northern fishermen's livelihoods by enforcing the law on the Indian side and taking decisive action against illegal fishing," he said. "The people of the north rely solely on fisheries for a living. I request the Indian government, as well as the Tamil Nadu government, to ensure that this main source of livelihood is not snatched away from them," he said.

The sensitive bilateral issue is back under the spotlight in Sri Lanka after Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK) legislator Thurairasa Ravikaran, who represents the Vanni electoral district, recently moved an adjournment motion on the issue, amid the ongoing Budget session. Making a passionate plea to Indian authorities as well as the Sri Lankan government and Navy on Wednesday, he said: "Please let our fishermen live!"

For well over a decade now, war-affected northern Sri Lankan fishermen have been urging their counterparts in Tamil Nadu to stop using the destructive bottom-trawling method, which has severely depleted their catch, while threatening their fragile livelihoods.

In 2024, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested over 540 Indian fishermen on charges of illegal fishing. This year, more than 100 Indian fishermen have been arrested in the first two months alone.

Last week, former Chief Minister of Sri Lanka's Northern Provincial Council C.V. Wigneswaran wrote to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, urging him to take steps to ending the bottom-trawling method of fishing.

## PM likely to visit Sri Lanka in April, launch solar power plant project

**Meera Srinivasan**
**Suhasini Haidar**
COLOMBO/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Sri Lanka in early April, Sri Lankan media has reported, ahead of an official announcement from either side confirming the visit.

According to Colombo-based publications, Mr. Modi will be in Sri Lanka during the first week of April. Apart from bilateral meetings in Colombo, Mr. Modi is expected to launch a solar power plant project in the eastern town of Sampur, in Trincomalee district, coming up as a joint venture between the Ceylon Electricity Board and National Thermal Power Corporation of India.

Sources in the Ministry of External Affairs said there was no decision on the visit yet, but an official said Mr. Modi was likely to attend the regional BIMSTEC meetings in Thailand, indicating that he will transit through Colombo before or after the event.

President Dissanayake, during his Delhi visit last December, has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sri Lanka. FILE PHOTO

While Sri Lanka is likely to have a high-level participation at the BIMSTEC summit, all eyes will be on interactions between Mr. Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, as well as Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, given the tensions in India's ties with both countries in the past few months.

Mr. Modi's Sri Lanka visit comes in response to an invitation from President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who was in New Delhi in December 2024, on his first state visit abroad months after he assumed office after winning a historic election in September 2024. Mr. Dissanayake subsequently visited China in January and the United Arab Emirates last month.

Mr. Modi has visited Sri Lanka thrice since 2014. He was last in the island nation in June 2019. Prior to that, he visited in 2015 and 2017. During Mr. Dissanayake's visit in December, regional security, digital infrastructure, connectivity, energy projects and the Palk Bay fisheries conflict were among the key issues discussed by the leaders. Mr. Modi will be the first head of government to visit Sri Lanka after Mr. Dissanayake and his National People's Power coalition rose to power late last year.

Last month, Pan Yue, director of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission of China, was in Sri Lanka and reportedly held talks on ethnic reconciliation and bilateral cooperation in culture and education. Neither Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry nor the Chinese Embassy in Colombo issued an official statement on the visit.

However, Sri Lanka's Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Hiniduma Sunil Senevi posted on his social media page about a meeting with the visiting Chinese official. Mr. Pan also visited the University of Peradeniya, near Kandy, "to promote enhanced educational exchange and cooperation", the institution said on its website.

## Trinamool leaders meet CEO over 'fake voter' issue

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

A delegation of the Trinamool Congress met with the Chief Electoral Officer on Thursday to discuss alleged discrepancies in the State's voters' lists, an issue flagged by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a party meeting recently.

"If Aadhaar can have a unique ID number, then why will voter IDs not have a unique identity number? This is our demand. If it is not fulfilled, we will have to launch a large-scale movement as directed by our leader Mamata Banerjee," legislator Firhad Hakim said after the meeting.

"We have demanded that when a voter makes an online application, they must undergo physical verification by the Block Land and Land Reforms Officer. Moreover, unique ID numbers for every voter must be ensured by the Election Commission of India. This must be verified and monitored," he added.

## Congress flags IMF's India report on 'tepid' private investment

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said that a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had flagged the issue of "tepid" private investment growth in India. The party said boosting consumption, adopting predictable economic policies, and rationalising trade policies were some of the key measures to exit the current "economic slump".

In a statement, Congress general secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the IMF had devoted an entire section to "Reigniting Private Investment in India" in its annual "India Article IV Consultation Report". "Somewhat unusually, it is a strong – if implicit – critique of the Modi government's policies and actions," he said.

He said the report underscored that private corporate investment had been sluggish, especially when compared with historical averages. "Notably, the situation is only getting worse, since 'nominal investment growth by private corporates appears to have decelerated further from 21% in 2022/23 to 13% in 2023/24'," the Congress leader said.

## Maharashtra to start media monitoring centre to identify 'misleading reports'

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

In a move to monitor and analyse news across print, electronic, and digital platforms, the Maharashtra government has approved the establishment of a state-of-the-art media monitoring centre with a budget of ₹10 crore.

The decision was formalised through a government resolution issued on Wednesday.

According to the resolution, the proposed centre will systematically collect and evaluate news content, identifying both factual and misleading reports; it will generate comprehensive factual analyses and issue real-time clarifications in cases of inaccurate or negative coverage, it said.

The initiative aims to ensure accurate dissemination of news, the government said.

The initiative aims to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information related to government policies, schemes, and initiatives, the resolution read.

The government said there was a need for a centralised system to monitor how news about its activities is being reported and perceived by the public.

**Operational aspects**

To be operational from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, the centre will be overseen by the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR). The government has granted full administrative and financial approval for the project.

To streamline operations, a professional consultant will be appointed through an e-tender process, it said. The consultant will be responsible for collecting government-related news in PDF format and categorising it into segments such as positive, negative, departments, issues, incidents, and individuals. For electronic media, the consultant will provide hourly updates on news trends, mood, and tone.

The consultant's initial contract will span one year, with the possibility of extension to two years based on performance, as determined by the DGIPR. However, the government resolution specifies that the total term shall not exceed three years.

## SC order on Forest Act 'strong rebuke' to Modi govt.: Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Hailing the Supreme Court order on pleas against the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, the Congress on Thursday said it was a "stinging rebuke" to the Modi government's systematic efforts to dilute the institutions as well as regulatory systems for ecological conservation in the country.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, was among the most draconian laws introduced by the Union government. Ever since it was introduced and bulldozed through Parliament, the Congress and I have taken a consistent stand against this law. The Supreme Court on March 4 upheld the landmark Supreme Court judgment in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India* in December 1996 which ruled that the definition of forests would be understood by its "broad and all-encompassing" dictionary meaning". It overturns one of Modi's government's "most deleterious provisions" that restricts definition of forest to notified or 'recorded' forests, he added.

## INBRIEF

### President to inaugurate 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat'

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a National Conference on "Women-led development for a developed India" on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8. The "Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat" conference will witness the participation of women officers from the armed forces, paramilitary forces and Delhi police, along with My Bharat volunteers, anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and self-help group members. Women officers from various Ministries and departments will participate in the event. The programme will also see the presence of representatives from many international organisations.

### Cong. MP calls for restoring legitimacy of Manipur Police

Manipur Congress MP A. Bimol Akoijam on Thursday visited Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal, urging him to work on restoring the legitimacy and strengthening the capacity of Manipur Police. In a public statement, Mr. Akoijam's office said that he drew the Governor's attention to the "unfortunate de-facto subversion" of the Manipur Police during the ongoing ethnic conflict. Mr. Akojam noted, "Under the constitutional scheme, the State police are the first line institution for maintaining law and order, and that the central armed forces...are, and can only be an aid, to assist the State police."

# Govt. launches AI Kosha, repository of data to build models and tools

14,000 GPUs have been commissioned for shared access and more of it will be added on a quarterly basis, says Ashwini Vaishnaw; he also provided an update on the government-supported effort to create a homegrown foundational AI model

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**New realms:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw along with others during announcement of various projects under IndiaAI Mission, in New Delhi. PTI

The Union government on Thursday launched AI Kosha, a platform with datasets that is being touted as a home for non-personal data that will assist with developing artificial intelligence models and tools. At launch, the platform contains 316 datasets, the bulk of these being programmes to help in creating or validating language translation tools for Indian languages.

The IndiaAI Datasets Platform is one of the seven pillars of the IndiaAI Mission, the Union government's main state-backed AI effort. The Mission has an outlay of ₹10,370 crore, and last month the Centre announced that under its Compute Capacity pillar, start-ups and academia would be able to use pooled access to graphics processing units (GPUs), which are needed to train and run AI models. Other than translation, the limited datasets include submissions from Telangana's own open data initiative, such as health data; 2011 Census data; satellite imagery captured by Indian satellites; meteorological and pollution data; and so on.

**More GPUs**

Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while announcing the AI Kosha platform that 14,000 GPUs had been commissioned for shared access, as against nearly 10,000 when announced earlier this year. More GPUs will be added on a quarterly basis, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Minister provided an update on the government-supported effort to create a homegrown foundational AI model, an aim that has gained urgency following the success of DeepSeek, the Chinese firm that was able to train and launch such a model at a fraction of the cost that American firms such as OpenAI and Google had to spend. "Now, the team is actually inundated with how to evaluate these applications," Mr. Vaishnaw said, indicating a high level of interest from start-ups to build such a foundational model for India.

**Government datasets**

This is not the first time the Union government has sought to aggregate public data to nudge other entities to leverage it. The government's Open Governance Data platform (data.gov.in) currently hosts over 12,000 datasets provided by different government agencies across India. The government has designated "Chief Data Officers" across Ministries and departments, encouraging them to provide datasets that can be used by researchers, companies, and other parts of the government.

In 2018, the government constituted a committee to explore the possibility of compelling firms to provide start-ups and government access to non-personal data, such as traffic data from ride-sharing apps, to help new entrants and assist government policy. The committee, led by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, submitted its report in 2020. However, the proposals faced pushback from the tech industry, as private players were reluctant to share their data with other parties. The conversation within the government around non-personal data from private firms took place largely before the advent of large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT.

## Opposition says U.P. CM is glorifying a 'criminal'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

In a twist to the tale, a boatman who got much praise from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for earning ₹30 crore during the Maha Kumbh, turned out to be a person facing multiple criminal cases in Prayagraj. The Opposition slammed the Chief Minister for glorifying an alleged "criminal".

Praising the boatman without naming him, Mr. Adityanath had said, "I am sharing a success story with you about the boatman who had 130 boats and earned ₹30 crore in 45 days."

The boatman, Pintu Mahara, lives in the Arail area of Prayagraj.

According to the police, Mr. Mahara has multiple cases, including of attempt to murder, lodged against him. When *The Hindu* contacted him to seek clarification on his criminal records, he declined to comment. The Maha Kumbh police had filed a first information report against him on February 11 for extorting money and harassing other boatmen.

Congress leader Supriya Shrinate came down heavily on the government for glorifying a "criminal".

## Plea in SC for implementing NEP in T.N., Kerala, Bengal

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court lawyer on Thursday moved the top court to direct the Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal governments to implement the National Education Policy (NEP), amid a raging debate spearheaded by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who has accused the Centre of imposition of Hindi on the State.

Advocate G.S. Mani argued that the three States must act to protect the fundamental right to education of children by signing the memorandum of understanding with the Centre to implement the NEP.

The plea said the view taken by the Mr. Stalin was "politically motivated". It argued that the Centre, like the State, had a stake in education.

# ₹1 lakh crore fund to stimulate private sector research and development close to approval

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

Ajay Sood says that a Cabinet note detailing the contours of the scheme will be available very soon. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The government is close to finalising an ambitious ₹1 lakh crore fund to stimulate private sector investment in core research and development.

While there have been schemes before to galvanise research and development, the unique attribute of this scheme is that funds – primarily in the form of low-interest, long-term loans – will be available to private companies to develop novel products and new intellectual property.

These funds cannot be used by universities or academic institutes but they may be co-opted by a private company towards developing technology, Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interaction. "You could understand it as a sort of huge PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme for research and development."

**Major weakness**

A major weakness of India's investment in research and development, experts have pointed out since long, is that the share of investment in R&D as a percentage of GDP is less than 1% (0.65) whereas scientifically advanced countries spend between 1.5%-3%. In this, the private sector investment in overall R&D spend has remained 30%-36% in India whereas countries such as the U.S. and China see private sector contribute 75% and 77%, respectively.

First announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the interim Budget in February 2024, the government apportioned a part of it – ₹20,000 crore – to the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Dr. Sood said that a Cabinet note detailing the contours of the scheme and focus areas of technology was being prepared and "will be available very soon."

He said that while the money was for now with the DST, it was the newly created Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) that would likely be involved in administering the fund.

"The loans will almost be zero per cent interest, essentially a huge PLI scheme. This intent (to bolster private sector R&D) was never there earlier," Dr. Sood underlined.

He emphasised that the loan could be used only if the private sector company (or a consortia) made a compelling case that the research would result in a commercial product.

"Otherwise why would industry do it? They are taking a loan, not a grant," he averred. "This will not be for blue-sky research." Tenures for the loan could range from five to seven years and proposals would be evaluated by a professional body and not the DST.

"Be it space, pharmaceuticals, auto, energy. We are sector agnostic. There are some broad areas but they cover nearly every area. However if it is a service industry (like information technology) they won't make the cut," Dr. Sood opined.

The ANRF aims to establish a ₹50,000-crore corpus with ₹36,000 crore of it coming in from non-government sources.

## SC Collegium names Calcutta HC judge for elevation to top court

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

Justice Joymalya Bagchi

The Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday recommended a Calcutta High Court judge, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, for appointment to the top court.

"After the retirement of Justice Altamas Kabir on July 18, 2013 as Chief Justice of India, there has not been any Chief Justice of India from the High Court at Calcutta. On the retirement of Justice K.V. Viswanathan on May 25, 2031, Justice Joymalya Bagchi would be in line to assume office as the Chief Justice of India till his retirement on October 2, 2031," said the resolution of the Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

Justice Bagchi would have a tenure of more than six years in the Supreme Court before he assumed the office of the Chief Justice of India.

The Collegium also took into consideration the fact that, at present, the Supreme Court Bench includes only one judge from the Calcutta High Court, Justice Dipankar Datta.

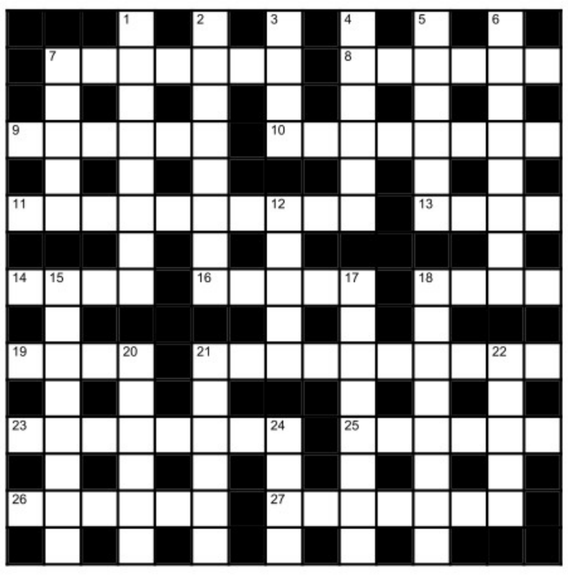
In a separate resolution passed on Thursday, the Collegium recommended Calcutta High Court judge, Justice Harish Tandon, as the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14426

(set by Saral)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**7** Very old article about nice source of topic (7)
**8** Coat label pulled by the Spanish (6)
**9** Frank files crown of teeth (6)
**10** Dampness of extra covering around suit (8)
**11** Removed and dropped old matinee idol perhaps (10)
**13** Clean top of yellow stone (4)
**14** Sharp American detectives (4)
**16** Primate left bird with caretaker at last (5)
**18** At first composer looked elsewhere for key (4)
**19** Different skin colours (4)
**21** Indian lecturer with judge describing passion in show (10)
**23** Preparation of empty passage lined with damaged marbles mostly (8)
**25** Fixed new deal accepting interest basically (6)
**26** Run away! Police is finally approaching headland (6)
**27** Country chaps not bright says Spooner (7)

**Down**

**1** Cried in bizarre dreams chasing enemy primarily (8)
**2** Posted the Spanish under home guard (8)
**3** Check stock (4)
**4** Duration of each ODI is changed (6)
**5** Closing coffee bar in the end (6)
**6** Nasty loose mud scrubbed from spinning tumble drier (8)
**7** Associate on duty in island (5)
**12** To begin with, the address maybe in local language (5)
**15** Cabbage dressing on essentially pungent diet (8)
**17** Strong snore disturbed worker (8)
**18** Main channel filled with extremely red iodine (8)
**20** Wound on a black beetle (6)
**21** Heard hotel food is natural (6)
**22** Model followed by puny jerk (5)
**24** Completes cycling shoot (4)

## SUDOKU

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**Solution to previous puzzle**

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| C | O | N | V | E | R | T | | E | A | S | I | E | S | T |
| H | | L | | N | | I | | N | | T | | | | O |
| E | R | E | C | T | I | N | G | | E | S | T | E | R | |
| T | | S | | | | S | | A | | | | Q | | S |
| | U | S | E | R | S | | O | B | S | T | R | U | C | T |
| C | | | | E | | B | | S | | O | | A | | I |
| H | O | A | R | D | E | R | | E | R | R | A | T | U | M |
| I | | D | | F | | I | | N | | N | | I | | U |
| M | O | O | N | L | I | G | H | T | | A | T | O | L | L |
| P | | B | | A | | H | | E | | D | | N | | I |
| | F | O | R | G | E | T | M | E | N | O | T | S | | |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 |

## FAITH

### Relevance of Puranas

People cannot entirely understand the meaning of the Vedas without the help of Puranas and itihasas. Though very old, the imports of Sri Ramayana and Mahabharatha, the two itihasas, and the 18 Puranas are still relevant even today. The most important part of Sri Ramayana is the surrender of Vibhishana at the divine feet of Sri Rama; of Mahabharata is Sri Bhagavad Gita; of the Vedas is Purusha Sukta; of dharma sastras is Manu dharma and the Vishnu Purana is the gem of all the Puranas. Hence, it is called "Purana Ratnam."

Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that in this world, people are influenced by three gunas – Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas – in varied proportions. The 18 Puranas are divided into three parts, six each for Sattva, Rajas and Tamas. Sri Vishnu Purana narrates more based on Sattva Guna.

A Purana should deal with five essential aspects: how creation takes place, how the deluge happens, the description of various lineages like the Solar and Lunar dynasties, the details of Manvantaras, and the multiple stories narrating these.

Sage Veda Vyasa wrote the 18 puranas, who is considered as the manifestation of Lord Vishnu. We are struggling in the sea of samsara. The epics and Puranas are like the boats that help us cross the ocean. The Supreme Being is responsible for creation, protection, and destruction. Creation is compared to a peacock spreading its feathers; destruction is like closing the feathers. Another simile is that creation is like a spider spinning its web, and destruction is like the insect assimilating the same web.

## INBRIEF

### 'Ola Electric first EV 2-wheeler maker to bag PLI incentives'

Ola Electric has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first two-wheeler automotive electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer in India to receive incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automotive and Auto Component (PLI-Auto Scheme). The company has been granted a total incentive of ₹73.74 crore for the Determined Sales Value of FY 2023-24 under the scheme, the company said in a stock exchange filing. PTI

### 'CPI inflation likely eased to 7-month low of 4.1% in Feb.'

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) that measures general price levels, likely dropped to a 7-month low of 4.1% in February from 4.3% last month on slowing rise in tomato and potato prices, as per data from Bank of Baroda (BoB). RBI's inflation targeting framework mandates CPI inflation to be between 2% and 6%. BoB observed a broad slow down in price rise and moderation in vegetable prices inflation in its research. This was attributed to improved arrivals of kitchen staples.

### CITI calls for 'zero-for-zero' tariff agreement with the U.S.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has urged a 'zero-for-zero' tariff agreement with the U.S. for textile and apparel trade. The U.S.-India trade balance in textiles and apparels remains strongly in India's favour. In 2024, U.S. imports from India stood at about $10.8 billion, whereas U.S. exports to India were limited to just $0.41 billion, with cotton making up 50.6%. With reduced tariffs, exports to the U.S. could surge to $16 billion in the next three years, CITI said.

## IndiGo to debut in non-stop, long-haul international flight services

**Jagriti Chandra**
NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Thursday announced its entry into non-stop, long-haul international flights with the launch of services to Manchester and Amsterdam as its first European destinations – moving ahead of its earlier plans.

The airline will offer thrice weekly flights each to Manchester and Amsterdam from July 2025, "subject to completion of all operational preparedness and regulatory approvals," the airline said in a press statement.

The airline has taken delivery of a Boeing 787-9 widebody aircraft on wet lease (leasing planes with crew) from Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic, which will enable it to serve this route. The aircraft comprises 56 of the newly launched IndiGo Stretch seats which offer more leg room and better cushioning, along with 282 economy seats.

The airline said three more of these Boeing 787-9s will be joining the fleet in the second half of 2025. The airline with a fully narrow body fleet comprising A320s – except for some Boeing 737 MAXs leased to overcome the shortage of planes due to Pratt and Whitney engine related groundings – also has two Boeing 777 aircraft wet leased from Turkish Airlines.

# Auto retail sales fall 7% in Feb.

All segments registered negative year-on-year growth: FADA; key challenges included inventory imbalances, aggressive pricing, weak consumer sentiment and limited finance availability

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

Automobile retail sales declined 7% year-on-year (YoY) in February with all segments registering a negative growth, data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) showed on Thursday.

Two-wheelers (2W), three-wheelers (3W), passenger vehicles (PV), tractors and commercial vehicles (CV) segments fell 6%, 2%, 10%, 14.5% and 8.6% respectively.

The 2W segment, despite an 8.57% year-to-date (YTD) growth, reported a 6.33% YoY drop in retail sales in February 2025.

"Urban areas declined -7.38% versus a milder -5.5% drop in rural markets, aided by better agricultural sentiment and marriage-season demand," FADA said.

"Key challenges included inventory imbalances, aggressive pricing, weak consumer sentiment and limited finance availability," it added.

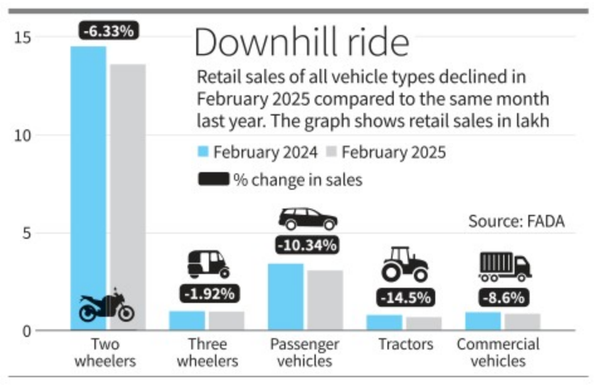
The 4% YTD growth in the PV segment was overshadowed by a steep -10.34% YoY fall in February. "Entry-level demand remained particularly soft, with dealers citing delayed conversions and challenging targets," FADA said.

Inventory levels stood at 50-52 days, underscoring the importance of aligning wholesale targets with actual retail potential.

The CV segment with a YTD decline of -0.5% saw a -8.6% YoY drop in February retail sales.

Dealers reported weak sales in transportation sector, tighter finance norms and pricing pressures, particularly affecting bulk orders and institutional contracts. Some relief came from robust tipper bookings, driven by increased government spending and steady supplies.

Cautious optimism persists for March, as dealers realign targets to current demand, FADA said.




## ESIC looks to invest in stock market, awaits SEBI nod

**Dalip Singh**
NEW DELHI

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is looking to invest surplus funds in the stock market through exchange traded funds (ETFs) and is awaiting markets regulator SEBI's nod for exemption from the ₹25-crore per transaction limit.

As of March 31, 2024, the social security body's investments in government and other securities, bonds and debentures, fixed deposits (FDs) and

Special Deposit Account (SDA) totalled ₹1,48,547.16 crore, sources in the Ministry of Labour and Employment said. Of this, ₹79,611 crore has been invested in government securities, ₹7,147 crore in other approved securities, ₹39,407 crore in debentures and bonds, more than ₹44 crore in FDs with scheduled commercial banks, and ₹22,336 crore in SDA with the finance ministry, the sources said.

The ESIC wrote to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) last year seeking exemption from the ₹25-crore per transaction threshold given that it does not have the capacity to shell out that big volume of investment at one go, explained ministry sources.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

## 'India's growth pegged at 6.5% in FY26 despite challenges'

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth will be steady at 6.5% in fiscal 2026 despite uncertainties stemming from geopolitical turns and U.S. tariff actions, Crisil said on Thursday.

The forecast is based on two assumptions which include another spell of normal monsoon and commodity prices continuing to remain soft.

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | THURSDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 74,340 | 0.83 |
| US Dollar | 87.12 | -0.06 |
| Gold | 89,100 | -0.22 |
| Brent oil | 68.97 | 0.48 |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2252.85 | 7.00 |
| Adani Ports | 1136.20 | 23.50 |
| Apollo Hosp | 6274.10 | 59.70 |
| Asian Paints | 2267.70 | 103.55 |
| Axis Bank | 1034.10 | 19.65 |
| Bajaj Auto | 7462.25 | 41.95 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1845.45 | 43.65 |
| Bajaj Finance | 8410.85 | 112.15 |
| Bharat Elec | 272.95 | -1.97 |
| Bharti Airtel | 1626.90 | 8.65 |
| BPCL | 265.04 | 9.20 |
| Britannia Ind | 4702.55 | -19.60 |
| Cipla | 1461.75 | 42.00 |
| Coal India | 382.60 | 14.35 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 1140.10 | 13.70 |
| Eicher Motors | 5094.40 | 106.10 |
| Grasim Ind | 2393.65 | 2.00 |
| HCL Tech | 1585.45 | 12.50 |
| HDFC Bank | 1691.20 | 1.20 |
| HDFC Life | 618.25 | -2.95 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 3648.75 | 60.00 |
| Hindalco | 681.95 | 24.60 |
| Hind Unilever | 2218.95 | 48.50 |
| ICICI Bank | 1218.05 | 2.35 |
| IndusInd Bank | 971.70 | -0.15 |
| Infosys | 1715.85 | 4.35 |
| ITC | 405.70 | 0.65 |
| JSW Steel | 1011.10 | 8.40 |
| Kotak Bank | 1921.70 | -11.40 |
| L&T | 3259.90 | 20.25 |
| M&M | 2742.40 | 15.80 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 11666.40 | 49.05 |
| NestleIndia | 2201.20 | 4.20 |
| NTPC | 337.90 | 11.70 |
| ONGC | 232.60 | 3.66 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 266.65 | 2.25 |
| Reliance Ind | 1209.60 | 34.00 |
| SBI Life | 1421.30 | 0.60 |
| State Bank | 732.05 | 1.70 |
| Shriram Finance Ltd. | 644.35 | 13.05 |
| Sun Pharma | 1614.00 | 31.55 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 958.15 | 1.35 |
| Tata Motors | 639.65 | -1.15 |
| Tata Steel | 150.44 | 4.34 |
| TCS | 3601.60 | 54.55 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1503.45 | -34.65 |
| Titan | 3121.10 | 34.55 |
| Trent Ltd. | 5069.50 | -36.60 |
| UltraTech Cement | 10493.50 | 29.30 |
| Wipro | 285.90 | 0.80 |

### EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 06

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 86.92 | 87.24 |
| Euro | 93.82 | 94.17 |
| British Pound | 111.90 | 112.32 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 58.74 | 58.96 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.99 | 12.04 |
| Swiss Franc | 97.97 | 98.34 |
| Singapore Dollar | 65.21 | 65.47 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.54 | 60.77 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 19.63 | 19.72 |
| Australian Dollar | 55.01 | 55.21 |

Source:Indian Bank

## Vikram Solar plans to make cells, batteries

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Vikram Solar Ltd. said it plans to set up a 1GWh fully integrated solid-state cell and battery manufacturing facility with proprietary battery management system (BMS) technology.

The facility, to be located in Chennai, can be scaled up to 5 GWh. It is expected to cater to the growing energy demands from the global market.

"Our solid-state batteries, [to be] developed and manufactured with majority components which are India-made align with India's renewable energy and climate goals," said Vikram Solar's chairman and managing director Gyanesh Chaudhary.

## '₹29,208 cr. declared in foreign assets'

**The declaration was the outcome of a 'Trust First approach' to tax collection, govt. sources said**

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

As many as 30,161 tax payers have declared ₹29,208 crore worth of foreign assets in assessment year 2024-25 as a result of a new compliance and awareness campaign, government sources said.

The 30,161 tax payers, who comprised less than 1% of the total number of tax payers, (10.4 crore in 2023-24) reviewed their ITR and declared ₹29,208 crore in foreign assets and ₹1,089.88 crore in additional income. Additionally, 6,734 people changed their residential status to 'non-resident', the sources said.

The data is part of a larger outreach activity to encourage tax payers to come forward and declare their assets voluntarily.

The declaration was the outcome of a 'Trust First approach' to tax collection to urge voluntary compliance rather than enforcing tax laws, the sources said. About 62% of the people approached by the government had responded by revising their ITRs to declare foreign assets, the source said. The number of people declaring foreign assets and incomes voluntarily increased to 2,31,452 in 2024-25, a fourfold rise from 2021-22, they added.

## Sattva Group, Blackstone file papers for ₹6,200 cr. REIT

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based realty player Sattva Group and Blackstone, an alternative asset manager, have filed papers for the largest Real Estate Investment (REIT) in India to raise up to ₹6,200 crore.

According to a draft offer document filed on Thursday, this would include the combined assets of Sattva and Blackstone's Nucleus Office Parks, a total leasable space of 48 million sq. ft. Blackstone will hold 55% majority stake, while Sattva will retain the remaining ownership of the REIT, Knowledge Realty Trust.


**APPOINTMENT**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ**
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

**Search-cum-Selection-Committee Recruitment for DDG & Director under SoEPR**

A Search cum Selection Committee has been constituted for selection to the positions of Deputy Director General and Director under SoEPR. The interested candidates may apply in plain paper with complete CV containing necessary details and send the applications to the Head CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR through email to **anjankumarb.nird@gov.in** within **20.03.2025**. Those candidates who already applied for the above mentioned positions notified vide advertisement no.18/2024 need not apply again.

For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**

**Advt.No.14/2025**
**File No: NIRDPR/CPRDPSSD /SoEPR/Recruitment/DDG&OrPosts/2024..Part(1)**
**Comp.no. 17571**

*Sd/-*
**Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)**

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

**APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF MEMBER (LAW) OF WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Applications are invited from the eligible persons for appointment to the position of Member (Law) of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission. Details are available in www.wbpower.gov.in. Duly filled in application in prescribed proforma shall be sent to the Principal Secretary, Power Department, Government of West Bengal, Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan 3/C, LA Block, 5th Floor, Sector - III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 106 by **28.04.2025.**

Filled in applications may also be mailed to powersecy@wb.gov.in within **28.04.2025**

**Sd/-**
**Principal Secretary**
**Department of Power**
**Government of West Bengal**

ICA- N 95(3)/2025

राजस्थान सरकार

**कार्यालय प्रमुख चिकित्सा अधिकारी एवं सदस्य सचिव, मेडिकेयर रिलीफ सोसायटी राजकीय जयपुरिया चिकित्सालय, जयपुर**

क्रमांक:- Manpower/2025/364 दिनांक: 13.02.2025

**Notice Invited Bid (2025-26)**

Bids for rate contract for **Hiring of Various Manpower Services** at Govt RDBP jaipuria hospital Jaipur are invited from interested bidders up to 5.00 PM Date 17.03.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. **UBN-MHS2425SLRC05013, Est Cost. 300.00 lacs.**

DIPR/C/2741/2025 **PMO & MS**

**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD**

**APPLICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF RESEARCH ASSOCIATES-2025**
**ADV. NO.- 01/ Research Associates/2025**

**ABRIDGED ADVERTISEMENT**

Start date for the submission of application form- 15. 03. 2025
Last date for the submission of application form- 01. 04. 2025

Online Applications are invited for engagement of Research Associates on contractual basis for a period of one year on **36 vacancies in the recruitment year 2025,** at the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, on a fixed honorarium of Rs. 25000/- per month only (subject to upward revision), from fresh Law Graduates who have completed or may complete their 5-year or 3-year Law degree course in the current Calender Year, i.e. 2025.

Eligibility, conditions of engagement and other detailed instructions, for the guidance of the candidates, are available on the official website of the High Court **(www.allahabadhighcourt.in).**

**Sd/-**
**REGISTRAR GENERAL**

**TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Email : pmd8@tnpl.co.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

| Tender No. | Material Description | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 242513 006967 | Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of one (1) no. 800TR Steam Operated Vapour Absorption Machine (VAM) along with its accessories for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit-I. | 28.03.2025 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/901/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं पदेन परियोजना प्रबन्धक, वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेण्टर, डूंगरपुर (राज.)
पता:- प्रथम तल राजीव गांधी सेवा केन्द्र कलेक्ट्रेट केम्पस डूंगरपुर, पिन कोड-314001
दूरभाष- 02964-232898, ई-मेल- SEWDSC.DUNGARPUR@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN, dwdu.dungarpur@gmail.com
क्रमांक: फा-1/निविदा/2024-25/3470 दिनांक: 03.03.2025

**NOTICE INVITING BID**
**NIT No.: 38-48/2024-25**

Bid for MPT/ECD/PRT/ANICUT/ANICUT RENOVATION/PCD etc. works for MJSA 2.0 and PMKSY 2.0 are invited from interested bidders. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state.
**NIB CODE :- WSC2425A0625**
UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01287, UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01288
UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01289, UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01290,
UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01291, UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01294,
UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01295, UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01296,
UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01297, UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01298,
UBN CODE :- WSC2425WSOB01299

(हरिमोहन मेहर)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं परियोजना प्रबंधक
वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेण्टर, डूंगरपुर

DIPR/C/3196/2025

**No. A.12024/1/2024-Estt.IV**
**Government of India**
**Ministry of Jal Shakti**
**Department of Water Resources,**
**River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**

The Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) invites applications for the following positions in the Mahadayi PRAWAH (Progressive River Authority for Welfare And Harmony), Panaji (Goa) on a deputation basis:

| S. No. | Name of the Post | Pay Scale as per 7th CPC | No. of Posts. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Chairperson | Level-15 (Rs. 182200-224100) | 01 |
| 2. | Member (Environmental Issues) | Level-14 (Rs. 144200-218200) | 01 |
| 3. | Member (Hydrology) | Level-14 (Rs. 144200-218200) | 01 |
| 4. | Member (Monitoring and Regulation) | Level-14 (Rs. 144200-218200) | 01 |
| 5. | Secretary | Level-13 (Rs. 123100-215900) | 01 |

2. Mahadayi PRAWAH is a Body Corporate set up by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the purpose of securing compliance with the implementation of the decision and direction of the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal. The Mahadayi PRAWAH has its headquarters at Panaji, Goa.

3. The candidates who have already applied in response to the advertisement published earlier in Employment News edition 17th 23rd February, 2024, 11th-17th May, 2024 & 24-30 August, 2024 are also required to apply afresh. No earlier applications will be considered for this vacancy circular.

4. Details of the post, eligibility conditions, etc. are available at **mowr.gov.in & dept.gov.in.** Applications (**in triplicate**) complete in all respects of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to:- The Under Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 428-A, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi -110 001 and by email at use4-mowr@nic.in & soe4-mowr@gov.in., **within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publication of this Advertisement in the Employment News.**

5. Advance copies of application or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.

**(Narayanan Bhattadiri K.P.)**
**Under Secretary to the Govt. of India**

***Note:*** *In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the English version and its Hindi translation, the English version shall take precedence.*

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय एवं समुद्री अनुसंधान केन्द्र
**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR & OCEAN RESEARCH**
Vasco-da-Gama, Goa-403804

15 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

**WALK-IN- INTERVIEW**

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय और महासागर अनुसंधान केंद्र (एनसीपीओआर), पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईएस), भारत सरकार (जीओआई) का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान है, जो भारतीय अंटार्कटिक वैज्ञानिक अभियान के समन्वय के लिए जिम्मेदार है। एनसीपीओआर अनुबंध के आधार पर प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की भर्ती कर रहा है, जिसमें निम्नलिखित पद शामिल हैं: वाहन मैकेनिक, वाहन इलेक्ट्रीशियन , एक्सकवेटिंग मशीन ऑपरेटर, क्रेन ऑपरेटर, स्टेशन इलेक्ट्रीशियन, जनरेटर मैकेनिक और ऑपरेटर, वेल्डर, बॉयलर ऑपरेटर और मैकेनिक/प्लंबर/फिटर, बढ़ई, वॉयेज सपोर्ट असिस्टेंट , पुरुष नर्स, वैज्ञानिक सहायक, रेडियो/वायरलेस ऑपरेटर, इन्वेंटरी एवं स्टोर्स सहायक, शेफ/कुक. भारतीय अनुसंधान केंद्रों (अंटार्कटिका) में 06 से 18 महीने की अवधि के लिए वाहनों और जीवन-रक्षक प्रणालियों के संचालन एवं रखरखाव हेतु इन प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की आवश्यकता है।

पात्रता, दस्तावेज़ीकरण और संविदात्मक वेतन संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट www.ncpor.res.in पर जाएं या सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 10:00 बजे से शाम 5:00 बजे तक 0832-2525526/23/20 पर संपर्क करें। वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू का आयोजन निम्नलिखित पते पर किया जाएगा: पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पृथ्वी भवन, इंडिया हैबिटेट सेंटर के सामने, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली – 110003.

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For details regarding eligibility, documentation, online enrolment and contractual wages please visit our website www.ncpor.res.in or contact 0832-2525526/23/20 between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs from Monday to Friday. Walk-in-interview will be conducted at Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003.

Sd/
For & on Behalf of Director, NCPOR

विज्ञापन सं:NCPOR/10/2025

THE HAGUE

## Sudan files case against UAE at the ICJ over 'complicity in genocide'

AFP

Sudan has filed a case against the UAE arguing that the Gulf state is complicit in genocide over its alleged support for Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, the International Court of Justice announced on Thursday. Khartoum contends that the UAE is complicit in the genocide of the Masalit community in Sudan. AFP

WASHINGTON

## Trump delays tariffs on most imports from Mexico until April

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he has postponed 25% tariffs on most goods from Mexico for a month amid widespread fears of the impact of a broader trade war. No details were released about what led to the move. No change was announced regarding the new tariffs imposed on Canada. AP

WASHINGTON

## Trump to order the dismantling of Education Department: reports

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order instructing his new Education Secretary Linda McMahon to dismantle the department she now leads, U.S. media has reported. The body, established in 1979, by law cannot be shuttered without Congress passing an act with 60 votes in favour in the Senate. AFP

HONG KONG

## Hong Kong top court quashes conviction of Tiananmen activists

AFP

Hong Kong's top court quashed jail terms of three Tiananmen vigil activists, saying it was a "miscarriage of justice" to jail them for refusing to submit information to the police. The judgment is a stinging rebuke to the government, which has targeted dissent using a national security law imposed by Beijing in 2019. AFP

## Macron's remarks are a 'threat' to Russia: Lavrov

**Agence France-Presse**
MOSCOW

Moscow views comments by President Emmanuel Macron about extending France's nuclear deterrent to European partners as a "threat", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday.

"If he sees us as a threat... and says that it is necessary to use a nuclear weapon, is preparing to use a nuclear weapon against Russia, of course it is a threat," Mr. Lavrov said at a press conference.

Mr. Macron on Wednesday called Russia a "threat to France and Europe" and said the French were "legitimately worried" about the U.S. shifting its position on the Ukraine conflict under Donald Trump.

# Zelenskyy thanks Europe for supporting Kyiv after U.S. rift

'We are not alone,' says the Ukrainian President; France promises to share military intelligence with Ukraine after U.S. withdraws services; EU chief calls it a watershed moment for the continent

**Agence France-Presse**
BRUSSELS

Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked EU leaders on Thursday for standing by Ukraine's side, as the bloc held crisis talks on confronting U.S. President Donald Trump's pivot away from Kyiv and its transatlantic partners.

Thursday's European summit comes a week after a White House blow-up between Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy led Washington to cut the military aid and intelligence sharing that has helped Kyiv fight off Russia's invasion. Separately French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu vowed to provide military intelligence to Ukraine.

**New friends:** (from left)European Council President Antonio Costa, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels. AFP

"We are very thankful that we are not alone. And these are not just words," the Ukrainian President said as the Brussels meeting kicked off, standing alongside EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa.

Ms. Von der Leyen, who has laid out a plan aimed at mobilising €800 billion to "re-arm Europe" faced with the threat from Russia, called it "a watershed moment" for the continent.

"Europe faces a clear and present danger, and therefore Europe has to be able to protect itself," the European Commission chief told reporters.

"It's also a watershed moment for Ukraine," she said. "We have to put Ukraine in a position to protect itself and to push for a lasting and just peace."

The EU's 27 nations are expected to give a green light on Thursday to the commission's defence plans, based largely on freeing states to spend much more.

## Trump warns Gaza that 'you are dead' if hostages not freed

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened further destruction of Gaza if all remaining hostages are not released, and issued an ultimatum to Hamas leaders to flee. The U.S. meanwhile confirmed unprecedented direct talks with Hamas, which it proscribes as a "terrorist" group, focused on American hostages in Gaza.

Mr. Trump said he was "sending Israel everything it needs to finish the job" as his administration expedites billions of dollars in weapons. "Release all of the Hostages now, not later, and immediately return all of the dead bodies of the people you murdered, or it is OVER for you," he wrote on Truth Social. "This is your last warning! For the leadership, now is the time to leave Gaza, while you still have a chance."

Donald Trump

Mr. Trump also warned of repercussions for Gaza as a whole. "To the People of Gaza: A beautiful Future awaits, but not if you hold Hostages. If you do, you are DEAD!"

## Hamas seeks lasting truce in exchange for hostages

**Associated Press**
CAIRO

The Hamas militant group on Thursday brushed off U.S. President Donald Trump's latest threat and reiterated that it will only free the remaining Israeli hostages in exchange for a lasting truce in Gaza.

Hamas accused Mr. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to back out of the ceasefire agreement they reached in January.

Hamas spokesman Abdel-Latif al-Qanoua said the "best path to free the remaining Israeli hostages" is through negotiations on that phase, which were supposed to begin in early February. Only limited preparatory talks have been held so far.

## South Korean fighter jets accidentally drop bombs, civilians among 15 injured

**Agence France-Presse**
SEOUL

Two South Korean Air Force fighter jets accidentally dropped eight bombs on a village during a joint training exercise with U.S. forces on Thursday, officials said, with civilians among 15 persons injured.

**Near N. Korean border**

The Air Force KF-16 jets were participating in joint U.S.-South Korea live-fire training exercises in Pocheon, about 25 km south of the heavily fortified border with nuclear-armed North Korea.

The two jets accidentally released eight MK-82 general-purpose bombs – four each – which landed "outside the designated firing range", the Air Force said. "The pilot appears to have entered incorrect coordinates during the pre-flight preparation process," an Air Force official told reporters.

A Defence Ministry official said an investigation was underway.

## 'Syria leftover explosives kill, injure over 180 children'

**Agence France-Presse**
BEIRUT

Landmines and unexploded ordnance in Syria have killed or injured at least 188 children since president Bashar al-Assad's overthrow in December, the Save the Children charity said on Thursday.

Of that figure, more than 60 children were killed, the U.K.-based group said, warning the toll could rise as more families return to the war-ravaged country.

Since Mr. Assad was toppled on December 8, "landmines and explosive remnants of war have caused at least 628 casualties, more than two-thirds of the total number of casualties for all of 2023", Save the Children said.

"Much of Syria is pockmarked by mines and explosive remnants of war after 13 years of conflict," said Bujar Hoxha, the charity's Syria director.

The group called on the transitional authorities and international donors to speed up the process of clearing mines and unexploded ordnance in Syria to limit further damages.

APPOINTMENT

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PUDUCHERRY
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt of India)
Thiruvettakudy, Karaikal – 609 609, Union Territory of Puducherry

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NOTICE

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BATTLE READY

## Finals are different, we are excited about the challenge: Santner

REUTERS

Skipper Mitchell Santner said New Zealand will look to use the experience of the league match it played against India ahead of the Champions Trophy final in Dubai. "Finals are different. What we have been doing to get to this point has been good. We are trying to operate as a unit and are excited about the challenge".

A MYSTERY

## Will need to adapt on unknown Dubai pitch, says Rachin

REUTERS

New Zealand opener Rachin Ravindra feels adapting to the conditions will be key to succeed on an "unknown" Dubai surface. "We don't quite know what the Dubai pitch is. We saw in our (group) game against India the ball turning but the other day didn't turn so much. We found ourselves adapting, which we will need to do on Sunday again."

HERE AND THERE

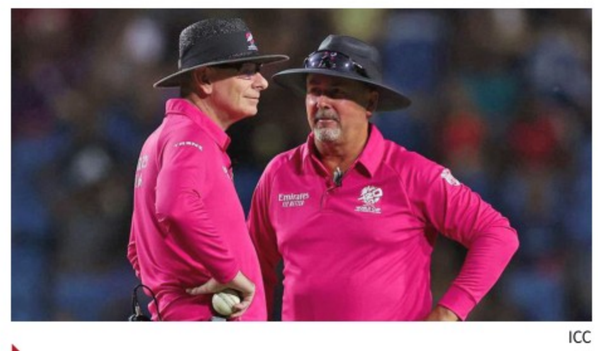
## Frustrated with scheduling, Miller hopes Kiwis get the better of India

GETTY IMAGES

Frustrated with the scheduling of Champions Trophy's second semifinal after to-and-fro flights between Pakistan and Dubai in a span of just 12 hours, South African batter David Miller is now hoping for a New Zealand victory in the tournament's title clash against India. "I'll be honest with you. I think I'll be supporting New Zealand".

MATCH OFFICIALS

## Reiffel and Illingworth nominated as on-field umpires for the final



ICC

Australia's Paul Reiffel and England's Richard Illingworth will be the on-field umpires, while Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle will be the match referee for the Champions Trophy final between India and New Zealand on Sunday. West Indies' Joel Wilson and Kumar Dharmasena of Sri Lanka are the third and fourth umpires.

# Surprise pick Varun turns out to be a secret weapon

The mystery spinner looms large over the summit clash against the Kiwis; pace variation and accuracy have been the TN player's strong points on his return to the international arena

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

**S. Dipak Ragav**
DUBAI

**Tying them down:** Varun has been hugely effective in the couple of games he has featured. GETTY IMAGES

Varun Chakaravarthy's career has been filled with bursts of highs and lows. Starting as a professional only at 26, he found instant success moving from the TNPL and IPL to the national team in a dizzy three-year spell before falling out of favour just as quickly by the end of 2021.

After reinventing himself over the next three seasons, the 33-year-old's graph is on the rise again. His consistent performances in three T20 International series – versus Bangladesh, South Africa (2024), and England (2025) – where he left most batters puzzled and shaken, was enough for the think-tank to hand him an ODI call-up at the eleventh hour for the three-match series against England, and subsequently the Champions Trophy. In a span of two months, Varun has reposed the faith.

From not being part of the provisional squad, Varun is now the ace up India's sleeve as it looks to reclaim the Champions Trophy on Sunday. The Men in Blue will be keen to make amends for the loss in the 2000 Nairobi final against the Black Caps.

The spinner from Tamil Nadu looms large over the summit clash, having left the Kiwis bewildered five days ago here. He followed it up with another impressive spell against Australia in the semifinal, getting the big scalp of Travis Head who had looked dangerous in the PowerPlay. The left-hander tried to take him on and lost his wicket.

The tweaker has spoken extensively about how he has worked hard to focus on top-spin after realising that lateral movement alone won't be enough to fox batters at the international level. His tireless work, incorporating more revolutions into his deliveries, has been a key factor in the remarkable turnaround.

After a five-for against Rajasthan in the Vijay Hazare Trophy earlier this year, Varun told *The Hindu*, "Over-spin has more revolutions, so the ball dips more. And when it dips, it extracts more bounce. So I found that to be more effective."

R. Ashwin, one of India's finest spinners, validated Varun's theory on his social media channel. "It's the amount of revs that is allowing the ball to drop. It is not dropping at 89 kph but in the high 90s. It's an unbelievable skill," said Ashwin.

The one that trapped Glenn Phillips leg-before was bowled at 93 kph, dipping and turning sharply into the perplexed batter.

After the New Zealand game, skipper Rohit Sharma was all praise for Varun's variation of pace. "Watching from slip, I can see his variation become a lot more pronounced. When you have a bit of mystery, you don't want to become one-dimensional and bowl at the same speed... you need something different like pace variation and accuracy. He has worked on both," said Rohit.

The key to success in any battle is the element of surprise. Over the last two matches, the Men in Blue have unleashed their secret weapon – Varun – to leave the opponents clueless. India will hope that the mystery spinner delivers another magical spell on Sunday.

**Spinning a web:** Kerr wrecked Warriorz with a five-wicket haul. SANDEEP SAXENA

Matthews starred both with ball and bat. SANDEEP SAXENA

# Kerr and Matthews power Mumbai past Warriorz

WPL

**Vivek Krishnan**
LUCKNOW

Hayley Matthews' sparkling half-century and Amelia Kerr's first five-for in the Women's Premier League took Mumbai Indians to a six-wicket win against UP Warriorz at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Chasing 151, MI knocked off the target in 18.3 overs, hampering Warriorz's hopes of making the Eliminator. Georgia Voll's 55 for the host went in vain.

The win took Mumbai to second in the table. It has eight points after six games. Warriorz, meanwhile, stay on four points and continues to languish at the bottom of the table.

By the time Matthews mistimed a pull to be caught at midwicket for 68 (46 balls, 8x4, 2x6), she had taken her team to the cusp of victory. She was in exquisite touch prior to that solitary indiscretion, threading the gaps on the outfield routinely to ensure that MI was always in control of the asking rate.

Among her eye-catching strokes, there was a forehand slap over mid-on off a half-tracker by Chinelle Henry that carried all the way for six. She brought up her fifty off 35 balls with a cut off Deepti Sharma through point. Nat Sciver-Brunt chipped in with a 23-ball 37, raising a 92-run stand with Matthews for the second wicket.

Their stand overshadowed Voll and Grace Harris' opening alliance of 74 for Warriorz. Voll was the aggressor in this partnership, cutting and pulling with authority.

Once the openers departed, Kerr pegged Warriorz back with a spate of wickets. Her first three deliveries on the night were dispatched for boundaries, but she didn't shy away from continuing to toss the ball up and tease the big shot. In the 15th over, she accounted for Vrinda Dinesh at long-on and Henry at long-off in the space of three balls. She also deceived Deepti in the air to have the left-hander stumped.

**The scores:** UP Warriorz 150/9 in 20 overs (Georgia Voll 55, Amelia Kerr 5/38, Hayley Matthews 2/25) lost to Mumbai Indians 153/4 in 18.3 overs (Matthews 68, Nat Sciver-Brunt 37, Grace Harris 2/11); **Toss:** MI; **PoM:** Matthews.

## Tennis legend Fred Stolle passes away

**Associated Press**
MELBOURNE

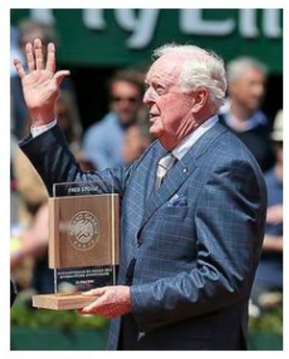
Fred Stolle, a winner of two Grand Slam singles titles and 17 Major doubles trophies, has died, Tennis Australia said Thursday. He was 86.

Stolle was an "iconic figure" in tennis as a player and later as a commentator for Australia's Nine Network and US broadcasters, Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley said. Tiley did not provide a cause of death.

The 1.91-metre (6-foot-3) Stolle was part of Australia's successful era in the 1960s as tennis progressed from an amateur to professional sport.

Nicknamed "Fiery Fred" or "Fiery" for short, he lost the first five Grand Slam singles finals he reached – four of them to fellow Australian Roy Emerson. He also fell in consecutive Wimbledon finals in 1963, 1964 and 1965.

Tennis Australia said Stolle is survived by his wife, Pat, his son Sandon – a US Open doubles winner – and daughters Monique and Nadine.



Fred Stolle. AP

# Chhetri makes U-turn on India retirement

**Anirudh Velamuri**
HYDERABAD

Chhetri will be back in India colours again. R.V. MOORTHY

Former India captain Sunil Chhetri has decided to come out of retirement to help the national team in its third round of qualifiers of the AFC Asian Cup 2027, against Bangladesh on March 25.

On Thursday, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated that Chhetri is set to resume duties with the Blue Tigers less than a year after bidding an emotional goodbye.

"The captain, leader, legend will return to the Indian national team for the FIFA International Window in March," the AIFF said in a post on X.

In June last year, India's record goalscorer called time on his international career following a goalless draw with Kuwait in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers.

The 40-year-old has continued to excel for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League this season, scoring 12 goals and providing two assists in 23 matches – the most by an Indian this season and the second overall.

India has been drawn alongside Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Singapore in its Asian Cup qualifying group. It is set to open its campaign at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong. Chhetri, who has scored 94 goals for India so far, will hope to help India fare better than it did in the 2023 Asian Cup when it limped to a group-stage exit following defeats to Australia, Uzbekistan and Syria.

# Coach Khurasiya proud of his wards' historic run

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
KOZHIKODE

**Momentary lapse:** Khurasiya said Baby was batting really well before his uncharacteristic slog-sweep. FILE PHOTO: NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Amay Khurasiya has done for the Kerala cricket team what no coach before him could. He took it to the Ranji Trophy final.

And he recorded this historic feat in his first season as the Kerala coach. He is proud of the way his boys came close to overtaking Vidarbha in the race for the first-innings lead at Nagpur. Kerala fell short by 38 runs. At 324 for six, chasing the host's 379, with Sachin Baby playing the innings of his life, in the company of all-rounder Jalaj Saxena, the target seemed achievable. Then, almost out of character, the captain played a slog-sweep, and was caught at deep midwicket.

"Baby was batting exceedingly well on a challenging surface till then," Khurasiya, who played in 12 ODIs for India and 231 matches (First Class and List A) for Madhya Pradesh, told *The Hindu*. "He could have become the biggest superstar of Kerala cricket, but for that one weak moment. He still did well overall and led the side well."

Looking back at the campaign, he feels one moment that stood out was Salman Nizar's valour. It was the catch Baby took off the deflection from Salman's helmet, while he was fielding close in during the semifinal against Gujarat, that gave Kerala a two-run lead. "Because Salman didn't budge, that moment defined history for Kerala cricket. And the catch went to the best hands in the Kerala team."

Salman's bat also played a major role in Kerala's campaign. Someone who had never scored a First Class hundred before, he hit two this season. In the middle-order, and often with the help from the tail, Salman and Mohammed Azharuddeen made up for the lack of runs by the Kerala top-order.

"Azharuddeen's 177 not out against Gujarat in the semifinal was a great innings," he said. "Here was someone who could score quick hundreds in white-ball cricket, playing a patient, match-winning knock, off 341 balls".

# Allround Jonassen shining bright for high-flying DC

**Kavita Menon**
CHENNAI

Delhi Capitals secured a third consecutive Women's Premier League playoff spot, showcasing its all-round strength this season. And one player delivered consistently: Jess Jonassen.

Jonassen was a key weapon with the ball last year, with skipper Meg Lanning entrusting the job to her in crucial phases. This year, however, she has stepped into the spotlight not just with the ball, but with the bat too, delivering impressive performances in both departments.

The Australian all-rounder notched her first two WPL half-centuries within a week. Her unbeaten 61 off 32 balls powered DC to a six-wicket win over Gujarat Giants, while her second fifty, part of a 146-run stand with Shafali Verma, helped crush Royal Challengers Bengaluru by nine wickets.

A key factor in her resurgence was the promotion to No. 3, replacing a struggling Jemimah Rodrigues. Previously batting at No. 6, Jonassen had faced just 35 balls across five matches in 2024. In contrast, the half-century against RCB alone saw her play 38 deliveries, allowing her more time to adapt to conditions.

Jonassen... thriving at the No. 3 spot. K. MURALI KUMAR

In her career, Jonassen has thrived at No. 3, amassing 936 runs at an average of 28.36 in 44 innings, compared to No. 6, where she scored 327 runs at 13.29 in 29 innings.

The move also allowed her to maximise her strength against pace. Since 2023, she has averaged 120 against pacers while striking at 171.42. Her numbers against spin had been weaker, averaging 21.85 with a strike rate of 129.66.

This season, however, she has significantly improved, striking at 166.66 against spin (compared to 161.90 against pace) and raising her average to 60 (68 vs pace).

In her two innings at No. 3, Jonassen has found the boundary frequently, striking 18 fours and three sixes with a boundary percentage of 30, a major jump from 17.79 over the past two years.

Jonassen is one of the five all-rounders to have scored 100-plus runs and taken five wickets this season (128 runs, nine wickets), and among them, she leads the wickets charts.

She has evolved as a death-overs specialist and become one of the first-choice players for Capitals.

## INBRIEF

### Bayern's Neuer suffers calf tear while celebrating a goal

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is set for a spell watching from the sidelines after he was injured while celebrating a goal during Wednesday's Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen. The 38-year-old Neuer tore a muscle fibre in his right calf, Bayern said on Thursday. Neuer "will be out for the time being," the club added. Neuer had to go off in the 58th minute of Bayern's 3-0 win.

### India women to play ODI tri-series in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka will host a women's ODI tri-series involving India and South Africa from April 27 to May 11. The series will be crucial in its build-up for the 50 overs World Cup. The three teams will play four matches each – all day games – with the tournament to be held at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo. The top two will qualify to play the final on the May 11.

**The schedule: April 27:** India vs Sri Lanka; **April 29:** India vs South Africa; **May 1:** Sri Lanka vs South Africa; **May 4:** India vs Sri Lanka; **May 6:** India vs South Africa; **May 8:** Sri Lanka vs South Africa; **May 11:** Final.

### SRH names Mulder as replacement for injured Carse

Sunrisers Hyderabad on Thursday named Wiaan Mulder as the replacement for the injured Brydon Carse for the upcoming IPL season. Mulder will join SRH for ₹75 lakh. The South African all-rounder has played 11 T20Is, 18 Tests and 25 ODIs. He has 60 wickets and 970 runs in international cricket. England fast bowler Carse had been struggling with a toe injury on his left foot, which began as a blister during the recent white-ball series in India. It eventually required a few stitches and he missed the final two ODIs. The issue flared up in England's defeat to Australia in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy. He was later ruled out of the tournament and replaced by leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed.

### Siddhant and Donski make the semifinals in Kigali

Siddhant Banthia in partnership with Alexander Donski beat Scott Duncan and Kelsey Stevenson 6-1, 6-7(6), [10-6] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $160,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Kigali, Rwanda.

**The results: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul) bt Scot Duncan (GBr) & Kelsey Stevenson (Can) 6-1, 6-7(6), [10-6]. **Pre-quarterfinals:** Siddhant & Donski bt Maxime Janvier (Fra) & Andrea Picchione (Ita) 6-4, 7-6(3).

### Neymar to don Brazil colours after 16-month absence

Neymar was on Thursday recalled by coach Dorival Junior to the Brazil team after almost a year-and-half out injured for upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina. Neymar started Brazil's first four qualifying games but went off injured in a defeat to Uruguay in October 2023, his last appearance for the five-timeWorld champion.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**WPL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
**Serie A:** gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

# Liverpool and Barcelona eke out narrow wins

PSG runs the Reds ragged only to be denied by a special performance from goalkeeper Becker; Benfica fails to capitalise on a man advantage; Bayern and Inter are in cruise control

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**Agence France-Presse**
PARIS

Liverpool snatched a late winner to beat Paris Saint-Germain away 1-0 in the first leg of their heavyweight Champions League last-16 tie on Wednesday, while Bayern Munich took charge with a 3-0 win over German rival Bayer Leverkusen.

Elsewhere, Barcelona edged past Benfica 1-0 in Lisbon thanks to Raphinha's second-half strike despite playing most of the game with 10 men after Pau Cubarsi was sent off midway through the first half for a foul as the last defender.

**Difference maker:** Raphinha scores Barcelona's winner against Benfica. AFP

**Seizing control**

Inter Milan seized control of its tie against Feyenoord as Marcus Thuram and Lautaro Martinez scored in a 2-0 win in Rotterdam.

PSG dominated at the Parc des Princes but couldn't make its superiority count and Harvey Elliott struck three minutes from time after replacing Mohamed Salah with Liverpool's only shot on target.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia had a goal ruled out for offside in the first half for the hosts.

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker made several crucial saves as PSG had 28 attempts on goal but could not replicate the finishing that had allowed it to score 21 goals in its last five Champions League outings.

Harry Kane scored twice as Bayern closed in on the last eight with a first win over Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen in seven matches.

The England captain headed in Michael Olise's superb cross to give Bayern the lead at the Allianz Arena.

Jamal Musiala added a second early in the second half when Leverkusen goalkeeper Matej Kovar let an innocuous delivery into the box from Joshua Kimmich slip from his grasp.

Kane rounded off the scoring from the penalty spot following a VAR review after he was impeded by Edmond Tapsoba.

**The results (last 16, first leg):**
Feyenoord 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Thuram 38, Martinez 50).
Bayern Munich 3 (Kane 9, 75-pen, Musiala 54) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0; Benfica 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Raphinha 61).
Paris Saint-Germain 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Elliott 87).

**Big hope:** Sreeja is one of the four Indians in women's singles. PTI

# Record number of Indians in the fray for WTT Star Contender

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

As many as 13 Indian paddlers have gained direct main draw entries for the WTT Star Contender to be held at the Nehru Indoor stadium here from March 25 to 30.

This is the highest number of Indian competitors in the event's three editions.

The men's and women's singles main draw will witness a 48-player field while the doubles main draw (men's, women's, and mixed) will follow a 16-pair format.

The tournament will have a prize pool of $275,000, with 600 points on offer for the champions, according to a press release on Wednesday.

The women's singles main draw will witness India's best-ever representation across all editions of the WTT Star Contender, with Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, and Yashaswini Ghorpade in the fray.

Meanwhile, in another first, four from the country have qualified directly for the men's singles main draw in an Indian Star Contender. Sharath Kamal, Mannav Thakkar, G. Sathiyan, and Harmeet Desai being the challengers.

The singles main draw will feature 25 direct entries based on ITTF rankings, along with four host wildcards, two WTT nominations, one WTT youth nomination, eight top-20 players and eight qualifiers.

Meanwhile, the doubles main draw will include eight direct entries, two onsite-formed pairs, two host wildcards, and four qualifiers.

# Kickstart FC claims its first victory of the season

**IWL**

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
CHENNAI

Kickstart FC secured its first win of the ongoing Indian Women's League (IWL) season, beating Sethu FC 2-0 at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here on Thursday.

Assisted by midfielder Mariyammal Balamurugan, Ghanaian forward Philomena Abakah scored the first goal in the 55th minute. Abakah headed in Mariyammal's aerial cross on the bounce. The cross was quite remarkable, as it went from around 30 yards on the left, from nearer the halfway line, to the scorer positioned near the right post on the bounce.

The clincher came in the 92nd, when midfielder Dangmei Grace's assist from the right was tapped in by Renu to the bottom right corner of the net.

**Happy faces:** Abakah, right, celebrates with teammates after scoring the first goal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We've worked really hard for these three points. We are looking forward to the second innings," said Kickstart coach Langam Chaoba Devi, referring to the second half of the season.

Speaking about the standout reason for her team winning on Thursday, Kickstart captain Dalima Chhibber said: "It was the not-giving-up mentality. We're going to carry forward that mentality."

**The result:**
Kickstart 2 (Philomena Abakah 55, Renu 92) bt Sethu 0.

# Hero Indian Open tees off in the Capital on March 27

**GOLF**

**Sports Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The champions of the last two years – Keita Nakajima of Japan and Marcel Siem of Germany – will be in action, among a number of stars, in the $2.25 million Hero Indian Open golf championship to be played at the DLF Golf and Country Club here from March 27 to 30.

The 24-year-old Nakajima won the last edition, an effort that catapulted him to global fame.

Siem ended a 10-year hunt for titles by winning the event in 2023.

Jacques Kruyswijk, Johannes Veerman, Julien Guerrier, Angel Hidalgo, Frederic Lacroix, David Ravetto, Ewen Ferguson and Guido Migliozzi will be some other prominent players in action.

The Indian challenge will be spearheaded by Veer Ahlawat, the runner-up of the last edition, who went on to top the Indian Order of Merit and is competing on the DP World Tour.

Nakajima. GETTY IMAGES

Apart from Veer, Shubhankar Sharma, a two-time winner on the DP World Tour, will shoulder the Indian challenge along with Manu Gandas.

The teen prodigy Kartik Singh will have another chance to rub shoulders with the best in the business, as he keeps getting better, having finished top-10 in his last three international amateur events in South Africa and Australia.

"This event is a testament to our leadership in promoting Indian golf on the global stage. We are proud to extend our two-decade long partnership with India's national open," said Sanjay Bhan, the vice president of Hero MotoCorp, addressing the media on Thursday.

"Hero MotoCorp remains dedicated to enhancing its legacy of supporting and advancing sports in India and globally. Our vision is to inspire the next generation and create opportunities for youth across the world," he added.

"The DLF Golf and Country Club is delighted to be venue for the sixth edition in a row. The course is in immaculate playing condition and the golfers will definitely enjoy the challenge," said Tusch Daroga, the vice president of the club.

## Punjab FC proves too good for Hyderabad FC

**Sports Bureau**
HYDERABAD

Punjab FC registered a 3-1 win over Hyderabad FC in an ISL fixture on Thursday.

An own goal by Alex Saji handed the visitor the lead in the 41st minute while Luka Majcen doubled the lead in the 56th. Shami Singamayum made it 3-0 four minutes from time. Ramhlunchhunga pulled one back in added time.

Punjab is in ninth spot with 27 points from 23 matches. Hyderabad stays in 12th place with just 17 points from 23 games. Both teams are already out of the playoffs race.

**The result:** Hyderabad FC 1 (Ramhlunchhunga 90+4) lost to Punjab FC 3 (Saji 41-og, Majcen 56, Singamayum 86).

## Aravindh beats Giri, jumps into sole lead

**PRAGUE MASTERS**

**Press Trust of India**
PRAGUE

Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram crashed through the defences of Anish Giri to jump in to sole lead after the end of the seventh round of Prague Masters chess tournament here on Wednesday.

It was Aravindh all the way while R. Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Wei Yi of China. Aravindh took his tally to five points out of a possible seven and now enjoys a half point lead over Praggnanandhaa, with just two rounds to go.

Aravindh on five and Praggnanandhaa on 4.5 are followed by Wei Yi, Ediz, Keymer and Shankland on 3.5 points each and these four are half a point ahead of the trio of Giri, Navara and Quang Leim. Dai Van is alone at the bottom now with 2.5 points in his kitty.

In the challengers' section, Dane Jonas Buhl Bjerre added to the woes of lone Indian Divya Deshmukh who remained at the last spot on 1.5 points from seven games.

Bjerre and Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan are tied for the top spot on 5.5 points each.

**Important results: Seventh round:** Quang Leim Le (Vie, 3) lost to Sam Shankland (USA, 3.5); R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5) drew with Wei Yi (Chn, 3.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 3) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (5). **Challengers:** Richard Stalmach (Cze, 3) drew with Finel Vaclav (Cze, 3); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5) lost to Jonas Buhl Bjerre (Den, 5.5).

# National women's boxing from March 21 to 27

**Y.B. Sarangi**
KOLKATA

The National women's boxing championships will be held at the Gautam Buddha University (GBU), Greater Noida, from March 21 to 27, concluding a day prior to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) elections.

The championships, earlier planned in February, was postponed while the BFI could not hold its elections by the due date of February 2.

Soon after the Delhi High Court stayed the Indian Olympic Association's decision to replace the BFI with an ad-hoc committee for not holding its elections in time, the federation decided to conduct its polls on March 28.

Boxers will be able to compete in 45-48kg, 48-51, 51-54, 54-57, 57-60, 60-65, 65-70, 70-75, 75-90 and plus-80 categories

As per the BFI's assessment, around 300 elite boxers will compete in the National championships, for which the last date to send entries is March 10 (by number) and March 15 (by name), at the GBU which also hosted the previous edition in December 2023.

The championships will be held as per the rules and regulations of the new international federation, World Boxing (WB), to which the BFI is now affiliated. Boxers will be able to compete in the following weight categories: 45-48kg, 48-51kg, 51-54kg, 54-57kg, 57-60kg, 60-65kg, 65-70kg, 70-75kg, 75-90kg and +80kg.

"As the first Nationals in the new Olympic preparation cycle, this edition will be crucial in identifying and grooming boxers for the next three years," said BFI secretary general Hemanta Kalita.

While WB recently got the provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the sport is yet to be included in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics programme.